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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The following is D.V. the constitution of our highest authority for the next four years and their respective charges:

Public Economy:	Walter Stampfli, <i>President of the Confederation.</i>
Political Dept.:	M. Pilet-Golaz, <i>Vice-President of the Confederation.</i>
Post and Railways:	M. Celio.
Justice and Police:	Ed. von Steiger.
Home Affairs:	Phil. Etter.
Army:	M. Kobelt.
Finance and Customs:	Ernst Nobs.
Chancellor of the Confederation:	Dr. Oskar Leimgruber.

The Federal Council, for the first time, has lost the predominating influence of a single party and is now made up of three liberals, two cath.-conservatives, one farmer and one socialist.

* * *

Federal Councillor. Pilet-Golaz is the eldest member of our cabinet having been elected to this exalted position as far back as 1928; next in seniority is Federal Councillor Etter elected first in 1934.

* * *

In commenting on the socialist success at the recent elections for the National Council English labour papers predict that under pressure from the workers our Government can be expected to resume diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union in the near future. There is, of course, not the slightest justification for such a contemplation as even the Swiss socialists have backed the Federal Council in the many decrees restricting and forbidding communist activities and propaganda.

* * *

The Federal Council approved the trade agreements between Spain and Switzerland, signed on December 4th, 1943. These agreements regulate the mutual exchange of goods for the period from October

1st, 1943, to the 31st of March, 1944. Spain will export to Switzerland metal, sulphur, cork, fur and animal hair, fibre, fruit and wine; Switzerland will send to Spain chiefly machinery, tools and apparatus, chemical products, textiles and watches.

Cantonal

An unusual manoeuvre is being enacted at Brunnen where two houses — lock, stock and barrel — are being moved backwards in order to make room for a second track of the Brunnen-Sissikon railway line. One residence has already been shifted eighty metres and turned round 90 degrees.

* * *

A protestant church in Einsiedeln was inaugurated on Sunday, December 12th.

* * *

The Socialist party of the town and canton of Zurich gave a banquet to M. Ernest Nobs, the new Federal Councillor. In the presence of about 1,500 people, M. Nobs declared himself honoured to possess the confidence of the working classes. "Switzerland must not stay behind, but follow its way firmly, for it befits a democracy to be active." The speaker added that a socialist not remaining true to himself as a Federal Councillor would be valueless.

* * *

In place of National Councillor Nobs who has advanced to the Federal Council, Prof. Dr. Valentin Giterman (socialist) will join the National Council.

* * *

The electors of the canton Zurich voted a credit of 35 million francs to combat unemployment. The communes were invited to submit projects for canalisa-

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les Membres sont avisés que la prochaine

ASSEMBLÉE MENSUELLE

sera en forme d'un "BIERABIG" et aura lieu le 1er février à 5.30, dîner comencera à 6h. précises au Dorchester Hotel, London, W.1.

Les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire pas plus tard que le 28 janvier auprès de Mons. P. A. Moehr, Hon. Sec., Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.2.

LE COMITE.