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HOME NEWS

TO OUR READERS.

The present circumstances are compelling us to make some different arrangements as regards the publication of our paper.

Owing to the fact that practically no Swiss newspapers are reaching us at present, we are unable to keep up our news page; we have therefore decided to print the Swiss Observer until further notice, in a reduced size, giving our readers news of the Colony, communications from the Swiss Legation, etc.

We sincerely hope that our subscribers will give us the same support as in the past. We shall endeavour, as soon as conditions render it possible, to resume publication on the old lines.

In order to carry on we are entirely dependent upon the support of our advertisers and we trust that they will give us their help in the same generous manner as in the past.

FEDERAL.

GENERAL HENRI GUISAN.

General Henri Guisan, who was last week elected by the two Federal Chambers, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Army, was born in 1874 at Avenches (Vaud). He was not a professional soldier, but for years he was on full time service in the Army.

He started his military training with the artillery, when in 1894 he was promoted to lieutenant. A few years later on obtaining the rank of captain he took over the command of the 4th Field Battery. In 1908 he entered the General Staff, six years later on the outbreak of the war he took over the command of the battalion 24 (Jura) with the rank of major, from this time onwards he was continuously doing service. On his promotion to lieutenant-colonel he was, in 1916 appointed chief-of-staff of the 2nd division, which division was then commanded by colonel Da Loys. For a short time he was entrusted with the command of the Infantry regiment 9. In 1921 General Guisan was promoted to the rank of colonel, as such he was put at the head of the 5th Infantry-Brigade. Five years later (1926) he obtained the rank of colonel-of-division and was put in command of the 2nd division, as successor of colonel-of-division Sarasin. This command he changed in 1931 with the one of the 1st division.

A year later he was promoted to Army-corps commander, in which capacity he was in charge of the 2nd Army-corps, which he held for one year, to be transferred to the 1st Army-Corps.

General Guisan has a brilliant military career behind him, and has rendered great services to our army, both as a teacher and as a leader.

During the late war he twice visited the French front, in 1916 at Verdun and in 1917 in the Vosges. Already in 1910 and 1911 he followed the German and French manœuvres.

General Guisan not only enjoys the full confidence of the army but also the confidence of the entire Swiss people.

MEETING OF THE TWO FEDERAL CHAMBERS.

The two Federal Chambers met on Wednesday last in order to elect a commander-in-chief of the Swiss Army. The only nomination put forward by the various parties, was the one of Army-Corps Commander Henri Guisan.

229 voting papers were given out, returned 229 of which two blank. Colonel Guisan received 204 votes and Colonel Borel 21. Colonel Guisan thus was elected by a great majority and was enthusiastically cheered both by the members as well as by the public. He took at once the oath.

GOLD REMOVED FROM SWISS BANKS.

In conformity with the Swiss mobilization plan, the evacuation of gold and securities deposited in the banks of Swiss frontier towns has begun. They will be sheltered in unknown places in the interior of the country.