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NEWS AT RANDOM

The final figures in the election for the National Council have now been published. On the whole there is little change; the communists and frontists have been eliminated while the "Landesring" (Duttweiler), a body of recent creation, seems to be gaining strength. The following is the comparative strength of the principal parties in the last three councils:

	1939	1935	1931
Liberals	50	48	52
Socialists	49	50	49
Catholic-Conservatives	44	42	44
Farmers (Bauern)	21	21	30
Landesring	9	7	—

* * *

A circular issued by the Federal Council and addressed to the cantonal authorities deals with the behaviour of the population in case of an invasion. It contains obvious instructions and stresses the inexpediency of civilians offering resistance or taking any part in military operations.

* * *

Petrol rationing will come into force on November 15th when the prohibition of Sunday motoring will be dropped. It is stated that petrol imports are extremely satisfactory and helpful in increasing the existing stocks.

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Biel (Bienne) is to have a trolleybus service; the installation including six buses is to cost half a million francs.

* * *

The cantonal appeal court of Schwyz has confirmed an award fining each member of the Morschach communal council Frs.120 for contravening the order regulating and safeguarding the transport of passengers. The local council has constructed a kind of cable railway to convey goods to the "Stoos" and subsequently allowed and encouraged residents to make use of the convenience. The worthy councillors ignored the protests of the court order obtained by the cantonal authorities until one fine morning the latter sent their constables to detach and collect the "Cabin" which has now found a resting place in the cellars of the Rathaus in Schwyz.

Lieut. Giuseppe Albisetti, who since June last, has been kept in prison in different Italian towns without a definite charge has now been released and has returned to Lugano. The Ticinese press insists on a full enquiry and report by the Federal Council.

* * *

Prof. Rud. Staehelin, of Basle, who at the request of the German Government reported on alleged cases of mustard pas poisoning during the Polish campaign has now published a personal statement in the Basle press. The Professor maintains that it is the duty of a neutral to assist in establishing the truth and that his mission was undertaken with the consent of the university officials; he was mainly concerned with the medical aspect, and the various statements and deductions since published have not been authorised by him. — The matter is forming the subject of an interpellation at the forthcoming session of the Basle Grosse Rat.

* * *

Prof. Alfred Vogt, of Zurich, the famous eye specialist, celebrated on October 31st, his 60th anniversary; he hails from the canton of Aargau.

* * *

A veteran of the 1870/71 mobilisation reached his 90th anniversary on the 1st of this month; he is advocate Frédéric de Weck, of Fribourg, and as lieutenant of Battalion 56 was present when the Bourbaki army crossed our frontiers.

* * *

The National Exhibition in Zurich which officially closed its doors last Sunday is refunding the whole of the guarantee capital in addition to 10% interest.

* * *

The new British Minister to the Confederation will be Mr. David Victor Kelly who is promoted from his present post at the Foreign Office; until a year ago he was Counsellor at the Residency in Cairo. — General regret will be felt at the retirement of the present Minister, Sir George Warner, who was extremely popular and charmed the Bernese by his distinguished appearance and gentle manner. Sir George is an authority on Bernese history and families; at a luncheon following the recent visit of the Lord Mayor of London he delivered a transporting oration blended with typical Bernerdütsch.

* * *

For publishing in the Ticinese paper "Il Popolo" an abusive article about the Federal Council a fine of frs.500 in addition to heavy costs has been imposed on Humbert-Droz, the secretary of the communist party.