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NEWS AT RANDOM

The Swiss Parliament (present: 163 from the National and 42 from the States Council) re-elected all the seven Federal Councillors. The voting was not quite the formal business anticipated as a socialist member after a short peroration dwelling upon the fact that his party was not represented on the highest magistracy proposed to fresh candidates in the persons of National Councillor Johannes Huber and States Councillor Dr. Kloti. They found, however, little favour. The voting showed the following figures: Motta 140, Pilet-Golaz 145, Minger 130, Baumann 132, Etter 144, Obrecht 166 and Wetter 153. Dr. Marcel Pilet-Golaz is for the second time President of the Confederation; he is from Château-d'Oex (Vaud) and enters upon his new duties exactly on his fiftieth anniversary. Hermann Obrecht, born in 1882 in Grenchen (Solothurn) will be Vice-President; originally a teacher he occupied many positions in local government and the business world. He was first elected to the Federal Council in 1935 when he severed his many business connections which included a seat on the board of the Swiss Bank Corporation. Georges Bovet, aged 65, from Neuchâtel and a former distinguished journalist, continues to act as Federal Chancellor, an office he has held for the last five years. — At the subsequent swearing-in of the new magistrates Councillors Motta and Obrecht were absent on account of illness.

* * *

It is anticipated that the accounts of the Federal Railways for the current year will close without showing the traditional deficit. The goods and passenger traffic since the outbreak of the war has been exceptionally heavy chiefly due to the contraction of road competition.

* * *

The revenue from customs duties shows an increase of 10.7 million francs or 50% more than the figure for November 1938. The total revenue for the eleven months is 273.1 million, compared with 239.6 million francs for the same period last year.

* * *

The first somewhat short session of the new parliament came to an end on Wednesday, December 13th. The two houses will meet again on February 19th.

The Conseil d'Etat of Vaud has issued an order forbidding National Councillor Leon Nicole, the well-known Geneva communist, to deliver public speeches within the canton.

* * *

The budget for 1940 of Baselstadt forecasts a deficit of 14 million francs; the extraordinary expenses caused by the present emergency are of course mainly responsible for this unsatisfactory state.

* * *

National Councillor Pfändler (St. Gall) has lodged an appeal against the decision of the St. Gall Board of Education forcing him to resign his position at the local state school should he prefer to occupy his seat in the National Council.

* * *

Thanks to government control wholesale prices to end of November show an increase of only 11.82% (or 15.6% on November 1938 prices), the percentage for other neutral countries being 18% for Belgium, 16% for Holland and 19% for Denmark.

* * *

Buchs (St. Gall) enjoys the distinction of having constructed a new road at half the amount for which a credit had been previously obtained.

* * *

The age limit of 65 for civil servants is being extended where it is found that replacement under present conditions is difficult.

* * *

About 14 million letters, papers and parcels have been handled by the army post office during November.

* * *

The number of totally unemployed registered in November was 21,110 which is about the same as for the previous month but about 62% less than a year ago. The catering trade is the chief sufferer; an improvement is recorded in the watch industry.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi le 2 Janvier à 5.30 h. précises au Restaurant PAGANI 42, Great Portland Street, W.1.

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.	Démissions.
Admissions.	Divers.

Le souper est facultatif et les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 2321/2).

Le Comité