

Prepaid subscription rates

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): **- (1959)**

Heft 1334

PDF erstellt am: **26.04.2024**

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

Advisory Council: R. DE CINTRA (Chairman); O. F. BOEHRINGER, L.S. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

EDITED BY A. STAUFFER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

Published Twice Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON

Vol. 44. No. 1334.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16th, 1959.

PRICE 11d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

(Fortnightly issue.)

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	6 issues, post free	6/-
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	24 issues, post free	Frs. 13.50

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Basle V 5718.)



NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Assembly, that is the two Chambers (National and States Councils) in a combined sitting, elected M. Paul Chaudet (Radical), Chief of the Military Department, as President of the Swiss Confederation for 1959.

The new President was born in 1904 and is a citizen of Corsier, near Vevey. By profession a vine grower, he became Mayor of Rivaz — where he was born — and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud. In 1946 he was elected a member of the cantonal Government. In the army he held the rank of Lt.-Colonel (Infantry). M. Chaudet became a member of the Federal Government in 1954 as successor to Federal Councillor R. Rubattel.

* * *

The Vice-President is Mr. Giuseppe Lepori, Head of the Federal Post and Railway Department. He was born in 1902 in Massagno and is a citizen of Lopagno (Ct. Ticino). M. Lepori studied Law at the Universities of Fribourg and Munich. From 1925 to 1935 he was editor of the paper "Popolo e Libertà", and from 1935 to 1940 he practised as a lawyer in Bellinzona. In 1940 he was elected a member of the Government of the canton of Ticino, and in 1954 he entered the Federal Government.

* * *

Professor F. T. Wahlen has been elected a member of the Federal Government in succession to the late Dr. Markus Feldmann.

The new Federal Councillor was born in 1899 in Gmeiss (Canton Berne) and is a citizen of Trimstein-Rubigen. He studied at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, where he obtained the degrees of Doctor of Science and Eng. Agr.

From 1922 to 1929 he was in Canada, and since 1924 had occupied the post of Chief of the Canadian Agricultural Department. In 1929 he returned to Switzerland and was appointed Head of the Federal Agricultural Testing Office in Zurich-Oerlikon, which post he held until 1943, when he was appointed Professor of Agriculture at the Federal Institute

Technology (ETH) Zurich, which appointment he relinquished on his nomination as Director of FAO in Washington, where he became Vice-General Director in 1957.

Some time ago he was awarded the Marcel Benoist Prize for Scientific Research. Professor Wahlen is also a *doctor honoris causa* of the Medical faculty of the University of Zurich.

* * *

Dr. Eugen Dietschi (Radical) was elected President of the National Council for 1959. He was born in 1896 and is a citizen of Lostorf, Olten and Basle. Since 1921 he has been editor of the "National Zeitung" Basle, and since 1929 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town. Dr. Dietschi entered the National Council in 1941. In the army he reached the rank of Colonel, and at present holds the office of Central President of the Swiss Liberal-Democratic Party.

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M. Gaston Clottu (Liberal), of Neuchâtel, has been elected Vice-President of the National Council.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

34-35, FITZROY SQUARE, W.1.

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