

News from the Embassy

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News from the Embassy:

On Monday, 28th February 1972, Mr Andre Gelin took up his duties as Vice-Consul at the Embassy, replacing Mr Paul Erb, who has returned to Bern.

Mr Gelin began his career in the Federal Department, going to Lyon in 1942, where he stayed for three years. He was then attached to the Swiss Consulate in Nice. From March 1956, to May 1958, he stayed in Bern, and the following eight years he was in Cape Town, at the Consulate. Since January 1966, he stayed again in Bern, up to the time of his transfer to Wellington.

Mr Gelin is married with two children, both of whom have stayed in Switzerland. Mr and Mrs Gelin are French-speaking Swiss, and speak English fluently.

COMPLAINTS

We have received several complaints regarding late deliveries of the Helvetia. To improve this position all contributions for publication must be in our hands by the 8th of each month.

Your co-operation would help a great deal.—Editor.

HEDY'S CORNER ~~~~~

In November the Swiss went to the voting urn to elect members for the representative assembly and for the body representing cantons in federal government.

In this year 1972 the proportionally insignificant voice of ten women representatives will be heard (total number 200 members). As in the early stages of accepting women as possible candidates on cantonal and communal levels, the French-speaking part of Switzerland has again been the most progressive in the above elections. From the total of ten women elected to the representative assembly, five were chosen by predominantly French-speaking cantons.

The body representing cantons in federal government now has its first woman member, the city of Geneva councillor (if one may coin a new word). There again a French-speaking canton leads the way, shining in solitary splendour.

May the yoke of unaccustomed duties lie easily on the shoulders of the advance guard of our fellow countrywomen. (Halleluia!)

Women's organisations are in the process of studying the possibility of national service, ranging from voluntary social service up to military auxiliary service. A proposal envisages simultaneous general service in line with male compulsory military service, bringing men and women into line in case of emergencies. Against this is the large drain of the women's labour force and thus seems