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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

ELECTION OF SWISS PRESIDENT.

According to tradition, the closing meeting of the December Session of the Swiss Parliament was devoted to elections. For this occasion the two Chambers, the Council of States and National Council, hold a joint meeting which is called the Federal Assembly.

Federal Councillor Edmund Schulthess, a member of the Government since 1912, and three times President, was elected President of the Confederation. M. Schulthess is chief of the Department of Public Economy, and will for the fourth time occupy this high office.

Federal Councillor M. Pilet Golaz, a member of the Government since 1928, was elected Vice-President.

NEW FEDERAL JUDGES.

The Federal Assembly has elected M. Jean Rossel, son of the retiring Federal Judge Virgile Rossel, to succeed his father in the high judicial office.

M. Jean Rossel, was born in 1884, and for many years he was President of the Tribunal in the Jura. Since 1919 he belonged to the "Obergericht" of the canton of Berne. M. Rossel who has had a great experience as a judge, is a member of the Liberal Party.

Dr. Robert Guex, Professor of Law at the University in Lausanne, will succeed the late M. Rambert.

M. Robert Guex was born in 1881, he studied law at the Universities of Lausanne, Munich, Berlin, Paris and London; until 1910 he practiced as an advocate, at the beginning of 1911 he was appointed clerk of the Federal Courts, a post which he held for 10 years. In 1921 he acted as General-Secretary to the International German-French Arbitration Tribunal, of which he became a member in 1923.

For many months he presided over the following Arbitration Tribunals: German-Belgian, German-Polish, Austrian-Belgian and Bulgarian-Belgian; and gained thus the reputation of an Authority on international law. In the year 1926 he was appointed Professor of law at the University of Lausanne. Dr. Guex belongs to the Liberal-Conservative Party.

DIPLOMATIC CHANGES.

M. Max Räber from Schwyz, at present in Berne, has been nominated Attaché of Legation, at Washington. M. Beat von Fischer from Berne at present Attaché stagiaire at the Legation at the Hague, has been appointed Attaché of Legation.

SWISS IN RUMANIA.

Owing to the crisis in Rumania, a great number of Swiss, some of whom have lived for a great number of years in Rumania have been asked by the authorities to leave the country in the near future. The Swiss Minister at Bucarest has at once protested against this order, with the result that the decree in question has been cancelled.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Another terrible railway accident occurred a little before six o'clock last Saturday evening, when four people were killed and 20 injured. The accident was caused by a fast train from Zurich to Uster-Rapperswil, coming into collision just outside the station of Oerlikon during a thick fog. There was a terrific impact between the steam locomotive and the electric engine of the train.

The locomotive driver managed to jump clear, but the fireman had his legs pinned in the wreckage, and before he could be extricated was burnt to death. The luggage van immediately behind the engine telescoped into the following carriage,

few of the passengers in which escaped injuries.

As a result of the preliminary inquiry held, the signalman has been arrested.

Till this past week Switzerland had enjoyed a long immunity from serious railway accidents, mainly owing to the efficient supervision exercised over the whole system. This disaster, following so closely on the smash in the Gütsch tunnel, when six persons were killed, has caused consternation throughout the Country. The following have been killed: Hans Keller, teacher, Hinwil, Major A. Schneider, Wallisellen, Nyfenegger, stoker, Zurich and H. Oberholzer, Bäretswil.

The death is reported of M. Bamberger, late Professor of Chemistry at the University of Zurich.

BERNE.

The installation of the new Principal of the cantonal Technical School in Bienne, Hans Schöchlin, took place last Monday.

LUCERNE.

With the year 1933, our contemporary the "Vaterland" is celebrating its century. We are sending the Editor and Staff our heartiest congratulations.

AARGAU.

Dr. Emil Isler, late States Councillor, has retired from his post as Chairman of the Cantonal Bank in Aarau, for reasons of health; he was a member of the Board since 1891.

Dr. Edmund Schulthess, the newly elected President of the Swiss Confederation, attended a banquet at the "Aarauer Hof" in Aarau, which was given in his honour. The cantonal government was present, and delegations from various towns. Dr. Schulthess, in thanking for this honour, expressed the hope, that he might be able to work for many more years for the welfare of his country.

ZUG.

M. Hermann Schwarzenberger, editor of the "Zuger Bauernblattes" has died at the age of 39. He fell off a ladder when pruning some trees.

VAUD.

It has been decided that the Banque de Montreux, which suspended payments some months ago, shall go into liquidation.

FOOTBALL.

I am sorry that in our last issue a few printer's errors occurred, in a series of transpositions which are quite inexplicable to the layman. Please correct to:

CHALLENGE FIRST LEAGUE.

Cantonal	.....3	Winterthur	.....3
Racing	.....2	Seebach	.....8

SWISS CUP DRAW, ROUND FOUR.

To be played February 5th, 1933.

Grasshoppers	v	Zurich
Young Boys	v	Carouge
Lausanne-Sports	v	Urania
Bellinzona	v	Lugano

CHALLENGE NATIONAL.

Results of December 18th, 1932.

Grasshoppers	.....7	Zurich	.....2
Concordia	.....1	Young Fellows	.....2
Young Boys	.....5	Urania	.....2
Aarau	.....2	Carouge	.....2
Lausanne-Sports	.....2	Basel	.....2
(match abandoned on account of fog).			
Servette	.....3	Chaux-de-Fonds	.....1
Biel	.....3	Nordstern	.....1
Lugano	.....1	Blue Stars	.....0

CHALLENGE FIRST LEAGUE.

Luzern	.....1	Etoile Ch.de.F.	.....4
Locarno	.....7	Olten	.....1
Winterthur	.....2	Bern	.....2
Grenchen	.....2	Oerlikon	.....4
Seebach	.....0	Solothurn	.....0
(match abandoned on account of fog).			
St. Gallen	.....5	Bözingen	.....0
Montreux	.....5	Old Boys	.....2
Cantonal	.....2	Bellinzona	.....4

The representatives of Group 1 in the Challenge National again scored over their rivals in Group 2 by recording 4 wins against 2, giving them at the halfway stage a lead of 41 points to 21, ignoring the abandoned game.

In the First League Challenge the two groups East and West as illustrated by the points so far gained, 24 each, are more evenly balanced. A contributing cause no doubt is the way in which the opponents are selected. There will be but five matches for each of the 9 clubs; those with the same number of points in the Challenge, play next against each other, drawn by lot, venue according to arrangement between the clubs. In the Challenge National on the other hand, each club of one group plays all of the other and the games are fixed long since. Where they will play is also left to the Clubs to arrange, to their best advantage. After all, this new competition was started in order to facilitate matters for the various clubs to get attractive and unusual fixtures, with the ultimate aim of better cash-balances. Whether it has proved a success it would be early to say. Yet in the First League attendances have been really poor. Two weeks ago in Bern (v. St. Gallen) about 500, ditto in Lausanne (Racing v Seebach) 700 in Neuchâtel (Cantonal v Winterthur) and the best: 800 spectators in St. Gall (Brühl v Montreux)! Well, if you want the truth, I myself cannot get really warm and interested in this new fangled competition. At any rate, we shall now have a rest until January 8th and so to all my readers my thanks for bearing with me and my best wishes for all the Festive Season.

M.G.

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

Once again Christmas is close at hand and to numerous hearts it will bring a brief season of happiness and enjoyment. How many families, whose members have been dispersed and scattered far and wide, in the restless struggles of life, will be reunited and meet once again in that happy state of companionship and mutual good-will!

The passing year has alas, to many of our compatriots been a trying one, the cares and sorrows of the world have laid heavily on many shoulders, and many of the hearts that throbbed so gaily twelve months ago, have ceased to beat, many of the looks that shone so brightly then, have ceased to glow, the hands we grasped have grown cold, the eyes we sought have hidden their lustre in the grave. How many old recollections, and how many dormant sympathies, does Christmas time awaken!

Happy Christmas that can win us back to the delusion of our childhood days, that can transport our thoughts, hundreds of miles away, back to our dear ones, back to the land of our birth.

God grant, that the coming year will be for all of us a year blessed with peace amongst all nations, a year of striving to lessen the hardships under which a tired world is labouring. May the silver lining for which we so often have gazed heavenwards, appear and shed its light over the darkness in which we have tumbled during the last few months. Let courage and an unflinching determination to win through in spite of heavy odds be our Motto for 1933.

In the towns, villages and hamlets of our homeland, the bells will ring on Christmas day, spreading the glad message of goodwill amongst mankind; their sound will pierce the Alps and ride on the ocean waves and will bring to everyone of us the greetings of our country. Let us spread this inspired message, coupled with the best wishes for the land of our adoption which has accorded to us a generous hospitality and to many of us a second home.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY Ltd.

The members and friends of the Society are reminded that our

Fancy Dress Ball

will take place on

Saturday, JANUARY 7th, 1933

at the

MIDLAND GRAND HOTEL, St. Pancras Stn., N.W.

from 7 to 1 a.m.

TICKETS at 7/6 (incl. Supper during the interval) may be obtained at Swiss House, 34/36, Fitzroy Square, W.1. (Tel.: Museum 8683) and from Employment Dept., 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4. (Tel.: City 7119).