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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

A large distinguished gathering filling all the tribunes and galleries of the Palais Fédéral was present on Thursday (February 22nd) when a new Federal Councillor had to be elected. There were two official candidates: Enrico Celio proposed by the liberal-conservative-catholic parties and Guglielmo Canevascini nominated by the socialists; both candidates hail from the Ticino. The first round of voting showed some indication of the respective chances; with an absolute majority of 111 Celio secured 107 and Canevascini 53 votes. The following round terminated the proceedings, Celio scoring 118 votes out of a possible of 222, his opponent retiring with 50 votes. The new Federal Councillor accepted the mandate in moving terms asserting that the sublime example of his predecessor would be his guiding star for all times. Federal Councillor Celio took the customary oath in Italian; early next morning he went to the Bremgarten cemetery and deposited a wreath on the grave of Federal Councillor Motta.

The news of the election was received with demonstrations and jubilations throughout the Ticino; in Bellinzona the local council had a salvo of 21 guns fired.

* * *

Judge Albert Comment, from Berne, was elected a member of the Federal Tribunal with 142 votes out of 207.

* * *

The Federal Council has decided to issue a national defence loan of 200 million francs to repay the short-dated loans recently raised from Swiss banks to cover the cost of mobilisation. The interest will be 3½% and the price of issue 90.40.

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An amount of Frs.427,800 is to be spent in Berne on the erection of a central alarm station in connection with air-raid precautions.

* * *

The St. Gall schoolmaster, Otto Pfändler, who recently won a seat in the National Council, has tendered his resignation to the local board of Education which definitely refused to grant him the necessary leave of absence. He intends to lodge an appeal with the Federal Tribunal.

The press comments caused by the official confiscation of Dr. Rauschning's book ("Gespräche mit Hitler") bring to light the delicate, and one might almost say the "un-neutral," position into which the Federal Council has been forced in their sincere endeavour to keep the war-wolf from our doors. The book was banned following remonstrations by the German minister on the ground that it contained reflections on the character of a foreign head of state with whom we entertained friendly relations; at about the same time a 24-page leaflet recording the German Chancellor's speech of January 30th and attacking in the vilest of phraseology the English Prime Minister was freely distributed in the northern and central part of our country. Contrary to regulations this propaganda sheet which was accepted for transmission by several post-offices omitted to state the name of the printer or responsible party. Recipients wondered how all this was done with the strict control exercised upon the publication and distribution of this kind of literature. When the matter came to the knowledge of the authorities of Berne the assurance was given that it would be looked into. We are sure that the sound judgment of our people and the in-born resentment against such impositions is our best and only real defence and we will not stress the point that we Swiss in this country think that what is good for the goose is good for the gander. — Similar foreign interference with the normal course of activities are evident in other spheres of public life. Cinema managers are forced to show German news reels and booksellers and kiosks have to exhibit German periodicals and papers which thanks to a clever display and stimulating captions are enjoying increased sales. On the other hand the sale of Swiss papers with very few exceptions is prohibited in Germany.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi le 5 Mars à 6.30 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