

Dr. Gottfried Keller

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DR. GOTTFRIED KELLER †

The death is reported from Aarau of the late States Councillor Dr. Gottfried Keller, at the age of 72.

By his passing our country has suffered a great loss, which will be keenly felt at a time when talents of such outstanding merit are badly needed.

Dr. Gottfried Keller was born on the 4th of September, 1873, in Zofingen (Ct. Aargau), the son of the proprietor and editor-in-chief of the "Aargauer Nachrichten." He studied law at the Universities of Muenchen, Berlin, Lausanne and Berne; at the early age of twenty-three he obtained his degree as doctor of law, and qualified a year later as a fully-fledged advocate.

At this time, the enterprising young lawyer opened a practice as an advocate at Aarau where, thanks to his painstaking work, he soon made a name for himself and as a comparatively young man published a notable work concerning procedure before the Courts.

Soon afterwards Dr. Keller became interested in politics; he joined the Liberal Party to which he remained faithful throughout his long and distinguished career. In the year 1902 he was elected a member of the Town Council of Aarau, to which he belonged until 1918. In 1907 he entered the Grand Council of the canton of Aargau, on which he sat for eleven years and his sterling qualities as an honest and thorough politician brought him into the front line.

Slowly, but surely, the name of Gottfried Keller became known beyond the borders of his native canton, and in the year 1912 the electors of the canton of Aargau sent him, as their representative, to the Federal Parliament, where he occupied an uncontested seat at the States Council (over which he presided in 1925/26) for 31 years.

It was in Parliament that his life work began, and it was there he rendered such remarkable services to our country. During his Parliamentary life he belonged to no less than 205 special commissions, presiding over 63 of them. Considered an expert in traffic and transport questions, he was often consulted by the Swiss Government.

From 1928-1932 Gottfried Keller was a member of the Swiss Delegation, headed by the late Federal Councillor Motta, to the League of Nations. In the army he reached the rank of a colonel of infantry.

The deceased played a no less important role in the economical sphere of our country, for he belonged to the Board of a number of important commercial and industrial concerns.

In spite of a most active life he found time to occupy himself with botanical studies. He was considered an expert on orchids, on which systematics he

wrote several books which earned him the degree of doctor honoris causa of the University of Basle. Several inter-parliamentary journeys took him to France, Italy, England and Brazil.

Dr. Keller leaves a widow and three children (two married daughters in Switzerland, and a son in London), to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

A much honoured and useful citizen has thus come to his journey's end, after a career rich in achievements and fruitful in attainments. In some other lands, honours and titles would have been bestowed on him; our country, faithful to its democratic principles, does not know such distinctions, but it holds its distinguished sons in grateful never-fading memory. ST.

PROMOTIONS AND NEW ARRIVALS AT THE LEGATION.

We extend heartiest congratulations to Dr. Eric Kessler on his promotion to First Secretary of Legation, and to Monsieur Roy Hunziker who has been promoted to Second Secretary of Legation.

Messieurs Pierre Aubaret, Second Secretary of Legation, Alfred Rappart, Claude Caillat and Rudolf Burckhardt have recently joined the Swiss Legation, the latter two are attached to the Special Division.

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LETTER-BOX.

J.B.—Ch-am. We appreciate your kind thought in sending our paper to the *Gloucestershire Echo*, and we are encouraged by the latter's flattering comments.

M.M.—Bristol. We thank you for your generous Christmas box and are very pleased to learn that through you passing our publication to your English friends, their opinion of Switzerland has noticeably improved.

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