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A FIGHT WHICH DID NOT TAKE PLACE

For the first time since 1939 when, in view of the war, the parties of the town of Berne agreed beforehand on their candidates there have been "silent" elections in the Capital. This came as a great surprise, for the Socialists announced two years ago that they would fight to regain their fourth seat out of the seven in the Municipal Government. That happened when, due to a resignation, the Liberal candidate Dr. Gerhart Schürch unexpectedly defeated the Socialist Dr. Heinz Bratschi and thus recovered the "bürgerlich" majority in the "Gemeinderat".

Now when the Socialists would have had an opportunity of regaining their lost seat, they renounced the fight. Apart from tactical considerations, this shows respect for Dr. Schürch, and it proves that the superior politician who, as the parliamentary editor of the "Basler Nachrichten" Arnold Fisch put it, "convinces with his whole personality, finds appreciation with his political opponents across Party barriers". This is indeed remarkable in this age of fierce Party-political campaigning. All of us Swiss abroad who have the pleasure of knowing Dr. Schürch as President of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad are delighted at this sign of respect and wish him a further period of successful activities.

CORRECTION AND ADDITION

We regret that in the news of the Canton of Baselstadt an error slipped in when mentioning the new Councillor of States. Dr. Eugen Dietschi is, of course, the sole successful candidate as the Half Canton of Baselstadt has only one member on the Council of States. The Councillor of States for Baselland is again the septuagenarian Emil Mueller (Social Democrat).

As regards the results of the elections to the Council of States still outstanding when we went to press in November, the Aargau electorate chose National Councillor Robert Reimann, Woelfflinswil (Conservative/Christian Socialists) as the second Councillor of States. This, as expected, will bring his party up to eighteen members in the Council of States, the strongest group in the Chamber. The elections to the Council of States in Berne and Ticino have brought no changes in the representation of the parties.

WANTED: PERSONNEL FOR HOTELS

For years now, Switzerland's economy is up against serious problems of labour shortage. The hotel industry, in particular, is feeling this draw-back of the economic boom and has launched an ingenious campaign to counteract it. For the period of one year, the Swiss Hotel-keepers' Association offers youngsters, boys and girls who have finished school, the possibility of taking comprehensive training — theory and practice — in a "Training Hotel". This training is free of cost, and if a graduate decides to go into the hotel business, his or her one year "at school" is not lost, on the contrary, it counts towards the curriculum required for professional training. A first course of this kind with sixty trainees started in a "Training Hotel" in Leysin (Vaud) on 1st October.

[S.N.T.O.]

AN ECHO FROM THE SWISS FEDERAL SHOOTING FESTIVAL

The organisers of the Swiss Federal Shooting Festival, held in Zurich from 24th July to 12th August last, approached the Swiss Colonies abroad for prizes in cash or kind to be given to the most successful of the seventy thousand marksmen who took part. The London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique decided to donate a suitably inscribed silver salver. This prize went to a small Shooting Society in the Aargau, and the following letter of thanks was received, a letter which had been on the way for a few weeks owing to difficulties finding the donors in London. The Council of the N.S.H. have asked us to publish it and express the hope that it may give encouragement to others on similar occasions.

Reuss-Gebinstorf, den 8. Sept. 1963.

An die
Neue Helvetische Gesellschaft
London

"Sehr geehrte Herren.

"Freudig und überrascht haben wir am Absenden des 48. Eidg. Schützenfestes in Zurich Ihre gestiftete Ehrengabe in Empfang nehmen dürfen.

"Im Namen der Feldschützengesellschaft Reuss möchte ich Ihnen an dieser Stelle den herzlichsten Dank übermitteln. Ich kann Ihnen versichern, dass diese prachtvolle Silberschale in unserem Fahnschrank einen Ehrenplatz einnehmen, und uns an die grossen und schönen Tage von Zürich erinnern wird.

"Unserer Gesellschaft, im Jahre 1873, also vor genau 90 Jahren gegründet, war es bis heute nie vergönnt gewesen einen Ehrenpreis zu gewinnen. An den Eidgenössischen von Bellinzona, Luzern und Lausanne mit Goldlorbeer ausgezeichnet, gelang uns in Zürich der Durchbruch zum grossen Erfolg.

"Von unseren 70 Mitgliedern beiteiligten sich 29, also rund 40%, am Sektionswettkampf. Mit 12 Pflichtresultaten, alle mit Kranzauszeichnung, erreichten wir einen Durchschnitt von 37.573 Punkten. Diese Punktzahl reichte für den ehrenvollen 9. Rang in der 4. Kategorie mit 648 Sektionen.

"Dieser Erfolg wird uns anspornen zu weiteren, hoffentlich grossen Taten. Wir hoffen, dass wir weiter Ehre einlegen können, für unser Dorf, für den schönen Aargau und unser geliebtes Vaterland.

"Empfangen Sie zum Schluss nochmals unseren herzlichsten Dank und die besten Grüsse aus der Schweiz.

Mit freundlichem Schützengruss,

Feldschützengesellschaft REUSS."

i.A. des Vorstandes:

Walter Oberholzer, Präsident.

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