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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Swiss voters have rejected by 550,712 votes to 128,237, a proposal of the Communist party for the abolition of purchase tax. This is one of the Governments main sources of revenue. Here are detailed results of the voting:—

	Yes.	No.
Zürich	30,538	112,928
Bern	12,274	72,685
Luzern	4,661	26,142
Uri	503	4,477
Schwyz	1,179	7,909
Obwalden	356	2,549
Nidwalden	353	2,936
Glarus	1,128	5,877
Zug	768	4,075
Fribourg	2,200	13,930
Solothurn	3,716	21,286
Baselstadt	7,130	16,527
Baselrand	3,728	11,222
Schaffhausen	3,206	11,045
Appenzell A.Rhr.	1,797	7,595
Appenzell I.Rh.	248	1,623
St. Gallen	9,100	47,504
Graubünden	1,800	19,115
Aargau	9,623	59,282
Thurgau	4,423	26,820
Ticino	3,374	9,450
Vaud	11,686	29,564
Valais	3,455	11,411
Neuchâtel	4,213	12,191
Genève	6,778	12,569
Total	128,237	550,712

48% of the electors went to the Poll.

Monsieur Jean-Marie Musy, a former Federal-Councillor, has died at the Cantonal Hospital, Fribourg.

He was born on January 10, 1876, at Albeuve (Ct. Fribourg); on finishing his schooling he studied law at the Universities of Fribourg, Munich and Berlin, and

practised for several years as a lawyer. Later on, Monsieur Musy was appointed Manager of the "Crédit Gruyérien" in Bulle. From 1912-1919, he was a member of the Government of the canton Fribourg.

Monsieur Musy entered the Federal Government in 1919 as head of the Finance and Customs Department. He retired in 1934 after having twice been President of the Swiss Confederation (1925 and 1930).

* * *

Monsieur Max Grässli, Swiss Minister to Hungary, has been appointed Swiss Minister to India and Thailand, in succession to Minister Armin Daeniker, who has been transferred to Sweden.

Minister Grässli was born at St. Gall in 1902, and is a citizen of Grabs (St. Gall). He studied *juris prudencia* at the Universities of Geneva, Paris and Berne, afterwards practising as a lawyer in Berne, Aarau and Geneva. In 1930, he entered the Diplomatic Service and was attached to the Swiss Legation in Paris. Three years later (1934), Monsieur Grässli returned to Berne and was promoted to Secretary of Legation. In 1936, he was sent to Berlin, which post he left in 1942 on his appointment as Consul General in Bratislava. In 1945, he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation and transferred to Washington, which post he occupied until 1948, when he was sent on a diplomatic mission to Japan. After a few months, Minister Grässli returned to Berne. From May 25th to September 22nd, 1948, he was Chargé d'Affaires in Moscow and the following year he was appointed Swiss Minister to Hungary.

* * *

Monsieur Ch. Weibel has been nominated Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim* in Tokio. (Monsieur Weibel was a former member of the diplomatic staff of the Swiss Legation in London.)

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