

Zurich's new "Stapi"

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The Loewenbrücke at **Langenthal** will be replaced by a new bridge, and the Farbgassee will be renovated to take into account the increased heavy traffic. The new goods station is in use; it is to relieve the shunting yards of Olten station. At the beginning of the new school year, the *Gymnasium* building was opened. The Crematorium is to be renovated. Langenthal has now also become a cattle auction centre.

A *Volkswirtschaftskammer* for the Emmental was founded at **Langnau**, and at **Lauterbrunnen** the last horse was sold in February; this means that for funeral transports at Stechelberg and Lauterbrunnen, horses will have to be hired elsewhere. At **Muensingen**, the corner stone for a large children's home of the Salvation Army was laid in February, and over 1m. francs are needed to renovate the "Heil-und Pflegeanstalt".

On 20th March, **Orvin** celebrated its millennium. **Sigriswil** will spend 6.75 million francs on school buildings, and **Spiez** is to have a by-pass and a waste water plant (Heimberg). **Thun**, too, is to have an "Ara", a waste water plant as well as a new *Gymnasium* building. The *Versuchskäserei* of the "Eidg. Milchwirtschaftlichen Versuchsanstalt Liebefeld" was opened at **Uettingen**.

(Based on news received by courtesy of the
Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

ZURICH'S NEW "STAPI"

In the first round of the Zurich elections in March, none of the candidates for the municipal presidency received the required majority. The electorate had to go to the poll again on 24th April. The Zurich Commune Council, therefore, had to be chaired by the old *Stadtpraesident* Dr. Emil Landolt who has been in office since 1950. The first meeting opened on 6th April with 125 elected members. Twenty-nine of these are new. The average age of the Councillors is nearly 48; the youngest is 22, the oldest 68. There are 91 Protestants and 25 Roman Catholic members.

Right to the last moment, it was not sure who would win the elections, *Stadtrat* Dr. S. Widmer (Landesring der Unabhängigen) or *Stadtrat* A. Maurer (Social Democrat). The former was supported by the Democrats and the Evangelical People's Party, the latter by a number of well-known personalities and the *Partei der Arbeit*. As no generally accepted "bürgerlicher" candidate could be put forward, the Liberals, the BGB and the Christian Socialist Parties declared *Stimmenfreigabe*.

With 40,655 votes, Dr. S. Widmer carried the day. His opponent collected 32,288 votes. Dr. Sigmund Widmer was born on 30th July 1919 in Zurich, a citizen of Zurich and Winterthur. He is Protestant, married and has three children. He was educated at the *Gymnasium* and Cantonal School and at the Evangelical Teachers' Training College in Zurich. He studied history, German and French at the Universities of Zurich, Geneva and Paris, and taught German for two years at the Brown-University in Providence U.S.A. He studied political economy at the same time. In 1949, he returned to Zurich to become an Assistant at the University of Zurich (Institute of History) and chief teacher of history, German, French and sociology at the *Töchterchule*. He was elected Commune Councillor four years later. In 1963, he entered the National Council. He is a Regimental Commander of infantry and an author of some repute. Amongst his writings are a Swiss History and a biography of the retiring "Stapi" Dr. Emil Landolt.

[A.T.S.]

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Frédéric Reusser (79), Moutier, former *Jugendanwalt* and Central President of "l'Association pour la défense des Intérêts du Jura" Vice-President of the "Schweizerischer Schützenverein".

Fritz Moser (81), Herzogenbuchsee, former printer and publisher of the "Bernener Landbote"; ornithologist and President of the Bernese Cantonal Society; on the editorial side of "Die Tierwelt".

Pinin Farina, Lausanne, the famous Italian car body builder; died at the Nestlé Hospital.

Jakob Reinhard Meyer (84), Langenthal, secondary teacher from 1910 to 1953; local historian and author; was offered honorary citizenship of Langenthal, but refused it in his modest way.

Walo Bertschinger (63), Zurich, well-known building contractor.

Dr. Eduard Fritz Knuchel (75), Basle, for forty years on the editorial staff of the "Basler Nachrichten"; for years Secretary of the Basle Literature Commission, founder of the Swiss Press Federation; author; distinguished in the Swiss and International Odd Fellow Movement.

Luigi Sommazzi (84), Lugano, former bank employee and member of the Commune Council of Porza since 1912 and its President from 1920 to 1960; when he retired he left a Commune with an admirable financial position.

Prof. Dr. theol. Emil Brunner (76), Zurich; famous theologian. He was born in Winterthur and went to the Zurich *Gymnasium*. He studied at the Universities of Zurich and Berlin and at the Union Theological Seminary in New York. He got his doctorate in Zurich in 1913; teacher in Leeds and from 1916 to 1924 Minister at Obstalden (Glarus), when he was called to Zurich University. His writings soon gave him a name in Switzerland and abroad. In the 'forties he was Rector of the University and for some time a member of the Zurich Church Synod. In 1948, he was delegate to the World Church Conference. He was a member of several ecumenical study groups, President of the Swiss American Society for Cultural Relations and was awarded honorary doctorates of the Universities of Muenster, Edinburgh, Utrecht, Oxford, Oslo, Princetown and Berne and was holder of the "Grosse Verdienstkreuz" of the Federal German Republic. He toured the world giving lectures, and for six months, he was Visiting Professor at Tokio University. On his retirement, he was made an Honorary Professor of Zurich University. Amongst the many publications, the most important are the three volumes of his "Dogmatik". [A.T.S.]

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