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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Swiss electorate has rejected by 486,506 votes against 267,540 a proposal for a new financial system. It was proposed that each canton should contribute towards the expenses of the Confederation an amount proportional to its population and means, and add that extra tax to its ordinary taxation. This proposal was rejected by 18 cantons (14 full cantons and 4 half cantons) against 7 (five full cantons and two half cantons) 54, 7 per cent of voters went to the poll.

Here are the relative figures :

Zurich	37,438	110,432
Berne	28,586	78,197
Lucerne	15,614	17,244
Uri	2,633	2,638
Schwyz	4,897	4,510
Obwalden	2,102	670
Nidwalden	1,399	1,693
Glarus	2,165	6,243
Zug	2,378	3,261
Fribourg	11,512	7,989
Solothurn	7,916	22,980
Basle-Town	7,092	19,389
Basle-County	3,301	13,127
Schaffhausen	4,159	9,395
Appenzell A.Rh.	2,958	6,548
Appenzell I.Rh.	966	890
St. Gall	23,760	34,241
Graubünden	11,074	11,686
Aargau	21,572	47,579
Thurgau	10,301	19,798
Ticino	6,929	8,798
Vaud	28,113	25,179
Valais	9,663	9,594
Neuchâtel	7,763	13,309
Genève	13,249	10,816
TOTAL	267,540	486,506

* * *

The Swiss Minister accredited to the Italian Republic, Monsieur René de Weck, has died at a

nursing home in Berne, where he was for some time under treatment.

M. René de Weck was born in 1887 in Fribourg, he started his studies at the College of St. Michel and the "Ecole des Chartes" in Paris. Afterwards he studied law at the Universities of Fribourg and Munich. In 1913, he entered the Diplomatic Service of the Confederation, and was transferred as Attaché to the Swiss Legation in London, which post he left after four years to return to the Political Department in Berne.

In 1918, M. de Weck was sent to the Swiss Legation in Paris, where he held the rank of Counsellor of Legation from 1923-1933. From 1933-1945, he occupied the post of Swiss Minister in Rumania. For the last five years he had been Swiss Minister in Rome. M. de Weck also made a name for himself as a writer.

* * *

Federal-Councillor, Dr. Enrico Celio, has been nominated Swiss Minister in Rome, in succession to the late Minister, R. de Weck. He will assume his post in October next.

M. Celio was born on June 19th, 1889, at Ambri di Quito, in the Leventina Valley. After absolving the local schools and the College at Balerna he completed his early education at Milan and Einsiedeln, at the same time as Federal-Councillor Etter. Afterwards he studied literature and law at the Universities of Florence, Milan and Freiburg i. Ue.

Returning home, Dr. Celio was entrusted with the editorship of the catholic-conservative "Popolo e Libertà," and later on practised as an advocate in Biasca.

In 1924, he was for the first time elected a member of the National Council, but in 1932 he had to relinquish his seat on being chosen — in succession to Cattori — President of the Ticinese government, as the Constitution forbids contemporaneous membership of

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