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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Maximilian Jaeger, Swiss Minister in Portugal, has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council, for reasons of health.

Dr. M. Jaeger, was born at Baden in 1884, and hails from Herznach (Ct. Aargau). He studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Paris, Rome, Vienna and Berlin. After having obtained his academic status as *doctor juris utriusque* from the University of Zurich, he entered the Swiss Foreign Office in Berne in 1909.

After having served in the capacity of Attaché and Secretary of Legation at the Legations in Rome, Berlin, Paris and Madrid, he was promoted, in 1919 to the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

In 1922, Dr. Jaeger was appointed General Consul in Athens and two years later (1924) he was sent as Minister to Austria, which post he occupied until 1938 when he was transferred to Budapest where he remained until 1944. In 1945 he was nominated Minister at Lisbon.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Alfred Brunner, at present Swiss Minister in Egypt, as Minister to Portugal in succession to Dr. M. Jaeger.

Minister Brunner was born in 1890, and is a citizen of Berne. He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1916, and after having served at the Legations in Vienna, Rome, Tokio, Constantinople and Bucarest, he was promoted in 1935 to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. In the same year, he was sent to Cairo as Chargé d'Affaires, and ten years later (1945) was promoted to Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Egyptian Government.

* * *

Counsellor of Legation, Monsieur Julien Rossat, has been appointed Head of the Administration Department at the Federal Political Dept. in Berne, in succession to Monsieur A. Daeniker, who has recently been appointed Minister in India.

Monsieur J. Rossat, born in 1901, a citizen of Granges-Marnad (Vaud) entered the Diplomatic Ser-

vice in 1923. After having held Consular posts in Mülhausen and Marseilles, he was attached to the Swiss Legation at Tokio as Secretary of Legation, where he remained until 1939, when he returned to the Political Dept. in Berne. In 1941, he was sent to Bogotà as Chargé d'Affaires.

* * *

The death has been reported from Catania (Italy) of Mr. Carlo Caffish, Swiss Consul, at the age of 60.

* * *

M. Boeue, Rumanian Minister in Switzerland since November, 1946, has resigned. He has been a member of the Social Democratic party in his country for 30 years and is unwilling to serve a Government which denies his party's right to existence.

* * *

The Federal Council has asked the Federal Chambers for a credit of 3.1 million francs for the purchase of one building at 10, Grosvenor Square and the adjoining building at 86, Duke Street, W.1. (Former Japanese Embassy), for the new home of the Swiss Legation. The costs for structural alterations are estimated to be in the neighbourhood of two million Swiss francs.

* * *

Mlle. Elsa Cymbalisty, Secretary of the Swiss Consulate in Jerusalem was killed during recent acts of terrorism.

* * *

Ernst Suter, Swiss Consul in Stuttgart since 1919 has retired from his post.

* * *

André Petitmermet, Swiss Consul in Tunis, has been appointed Consul at Marseilles.

Petitmermet is a citizen of Yverne (Vaud) and was born in 1890 at Athens. He entered the Consular Service in 1925 at chancellor of the Swiss Consulate at Athens. In 1939, he was transferred to the Consulate in Tunis.

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Cantonal

Joseph Bürgi-Poels, a member of the government of the canton of Schwyz, has informed his party (Liberal) that he does not wish to stand as a candidate at the coming elections, for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Investigations as to the cause of the serious railway accident in Wädenswil, (reported in our last issue) have not yet been completed.

Monsieur Celio, President of the Swiss Confederation, who soon after the accident arrived at Wädenswil, has conveyed to the relations of the killed and injured the sympathy of the Swiss Government.

Below we give a list of the dead and injured persons:—

Dead: Brigitte Helbling, Horgen; Werner Meyer (1902) engineer, Baden; Edwin Müller (1901) Zurich, Bütschwil; Werner Scherer, Zurich; Albert Sieber, Administr. SOB., Wädenswil; Theodor Spiess, (1914) Zurich; Margrit Stäger, typist, Zurich; Heinz Gull, Zurich; Jean Schneider, Zurich, Hermann Frank, Zurich; Walter Nussberger, Zurich, Albert Badrutt (1898) Zurich; Klara Maurer, teacher, Zurich; Lieut-Colonel Walter Lendi (1898) Zurich; Jörg Lendi, son of Walter Lendi, Zurich; Walter Baumann (1932) Zurich; Mrs. Rosa Büsser, Zurich; Mrs. Adelheid Kleiber (1917) Zurich; Suzanne von Kaenel (1920) typist, Zurich; Maria Reato (1928) Wädenswil; Heinz Kleiber, (1914) engineer, Zurich.

Injured: Nelly Allenspach (1912) typist, Zurich; Arnold Ammann (1914) agent, Zurich; Germaine Beys (1910) Zurich; Walter Buck (1906) bootmaker, Zurich; Hedwig Buck (1907); Ella Faller (1885) Zurich;

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*Information available from the Swiss Legation,
18, Montagu Place, London, W.1.*

Swiss Consulates: Liverpool, Manchester,

For further details regarding travel arrangements and currency allowance (business allowance only) apply to the leading Travel Agents, Office of Thos. Cook & Son Ltd., or the Swiss State Travel Bureau, Carlton House, 11b, Regent Street, London, S.W.1.

Edwin Gull (1907) Zurich; Charlotte Herzog (1923) Zurich; Berta Kunz (1908) Zurich; Werner Kunz (1906) joiner, Zurich; Olga Müller, married woman, Zurich; Ruth Muller (1923) married woman, Zurich; Frederic Schneider (1933) Zurich; Dr. Hermann Schuepp (1884) teacher, Oberrealschule, Zurich; Veronika Stamm (1919) typist, Zurich; Karl Suter (1910) Wädenswil; Anton Weih (1910) clerk, Zurich.

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The "Gasthaus zum Löwen" at Walisellen (Ct. Zurich) was partly destroyed by fire. The damage caused is estimated to be about 250,000.—frs.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

A seventy-two year old tobacconist in Zurich, was knocked down and badly injured by a young man, who took to his heels after having robbed the man, who is semi-blind. No arrest has so far been made. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Hans Fuchs-Keller, at present surgeon at the Cantonal Hospital in Münsterlingen, has been appointed surgeon-in-chief of the "Bircher Volksanatorium" in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Fritz Gysi, Professor of History of Music at the University of Zurich, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary in Zurich. He enjoys a great reputation as a music critic. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Speeding, unfortunately so prevalent in our country, has once more caused the death of two lives, when a motor-cycle collided with a motor-car between Wädenswil and Au. Both the driver and the passenger of the motor-cycle were killed outright. [A.T.S.]

* * *

One of the buildings at the cantonal prison in Thorberg (Ct. Berne) has been completely destroyed by fire. About a hundred prisoners had to be evacuated to the prison in Berne, some of whom escaped in the transit. The cause of the fire is unknown, and the damage is believed to be considerable. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 30 million francs loan, issued at 3½ per cent. by the municipality of Berne, has been over subscribed and allocations had to be reduced. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Pierre Glasson, a member of the government of the canton of Fribourg has decided to remain in the government and to renounce his seat in Parliament (National Council). [A.T.S.]

* * *

A former mayor of the town of Murten (Ct. Fribourg) Fritz Staub, has died at the age of 81.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Fribourg for the year 1947 close with a deficit of 1,734,968.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The death is reported from Fribourg of Hippolyte de Weck, Manager of the Banking firm de Weck-Aeby & Cie, in Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Hans Jselin, Professor of medicine at the University of Basle, and a well-known surgeon, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Basle.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Rudolf Urech, the well-known portrait painter, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Basle.

He has been an exhibitor at a large number of art

exhibitions both in Switzerland and abroad. The gold and silver medal of the "Salon" in Paris have been awarded to him for his works. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Gottlieb Baumgartner, for 25 years a member of the cantonal government, has died in St. Gall at the age of 75. He had retired in 1938 from his post. [A.T.S.]

Three children, aged 1½, 2½ and 5 years, of the family Berger-Gruber, in Maladers near Chur (Ct. Graubünden) were burned to death when their house caught fire. The parents, who had six children, were absent whilst the tragedy occurred. [A.T.S.]

Emil Keller, a former National-Councillor, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. Keller was a member of the government of the canton of Aargau for over 30 years. From 1912 to 1943 he sat in Parliament (National Council). [A.T.S.]

The clerk of the community of Horn (Ct. Thurgau) Leutenegger, who was under arrest for embezzeling an amount of altogether 300,000.—frs. belonging to the community of Horn, has been sentenced to four years penal servitude. [A.T.S.]

The literary prize of the "Libera Stampa" in Lugano for the year 1947 has been awarded to the writer, Antonio Manfredi, from Viareggio. (The prize amounts to 1,000.—frs.) [A.T.S.]

M. Aug. Seiler, Central-President of the "Schweiz. Samariterbund" for many years, has died in Vevey, at the age of 69. [A.T.S.]

Madame E. Dannelet-Tissot, of Grandrent near Grandson, has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary, she was presented with the traditional "easy chair" by the government of the canton of Vaud. [A.T.S.]

Charles Troyon, who played a conspicuous role in the music world of our country, has died at Lausanne at the age of 81. He was the conductor of many choirs,

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at the Vienna Café,
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amongst them the "Union Chorale" of Lausanne; he was also known as a soloist.

Besides, being Director of the "Conservatoire" in Lausanne, he held the post as President of the "Eidg. Sängervereins." [A.T.S.]

The 100th anniversary of the Neuchâtel revolution was celebrated throughout the canton. The church bells were rung for a quarter of an hour. In all the churches religious services were held.

Monsieur Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister and a Neuchâtelois himself, made an important speech in the cantonal capital, and the Grand Council held a solemn Meeting. All papers issued illustrated special editions. [A.T.S.]

The population of the canton of Neuchâtel at the end of 1947 numbered 126,858 persons. [A.T.S.]

Ernest Ansermet, the well-known conductor, has returned to Geneva after a successful concert tour in the U.S.A. [A.T.S.]

A committee headed by States-Councillor Albert Malche, has been formed at Geneva, in order to study the project of the erection of a monument in memory of Henri Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross. [A.T.S.]

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Army

The military tribunal of the 4th Division has sentenced a former policeman of Basle, Otto Dreiser, to fifteen years penal servitude, and expulsion from the army, for espionage during the last war. [A.T.S.]

Lieutenant-Colonel Albert von Tschärner has died at Aubonne at the age of 73.

The deceased reached the rank of major (General Staff) in the Swiss army, where he was a member of the Instruction Corps (Cavalry). In 1916, he joined the French Foreign Legion where he reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. [A.T.S.]

During practice on the shooting ground at Grandvillard (Ct. Fribourg) a gun barrel burst, severely injuring a gunner, Ernst Geissler, from Utzenstorf. P. Lieutenant Hans Urech, from Aarau, had his leg fractured. [A.T.S.]

A mechanic, Walter Arn (1914), employed by the military aerodrome of Payerne, was hit by a propeller and killed. [A.T.S.]

The death is reported from Thun of Colonel Georg Bluntschli, a former member of the Instruction Corps (artillery), at the age of 70. [A.T.S.]

Traffic

The Appenzell Railway, which owns and works the 21-mile metre-gauge electric railway connecting Appenzell, via Urnäsch and Herisau, with Gossau (on the Zürich — St. Gall main line) is to be amalgamated with the Appenzell-Wasserauen Railway, owning and working

the 4.3-mile metre-gauge electric line linking Appenzell, via Weissbad, to Wasserauen. The amalgamation is to take place in the near future, and will be made effective from January 1st this year.

The cross-channel service for Paris and Switzerland via Folkestone and Calais will be resumed on Sunday, May 9th. The service will operate daily, and will leave London (Victoria) at 14.30, Folkestone harbour at 16.50 and Calais Maritime at 18.49, arriving at Paris (Nord) at 22.50. In the inward direction the service will depart from Paris (Nord) at 08.05, Calais Maritime at 12.30 and Folkestone harbour at 14.40, arriving at London (Victoria) at 16.20. The Anglo-Swiss Express train will run from Calais to Switzerland daily in both directions to connect with the cross-Channel service.

A new series of four stamps has been placed on sale by the Swiss postal administration.

It includes a five centime stamp commemorating the Treaty of Westphalia of 1648 which recognised Swiss independence.

The Swiss Football Federation has decided not to enter a team for the Olympic Games tournament in London this year, it is announced in Zurich.

Customs officers at Northolt Airport rubbed their eyes in amazement when the party of Swiss motor agents bound for the Standard Company's factory disembarked from the big four-engined Constellation aircraft in which they had flown from Geneva. It wasn't the fact that the party of over 40 motor agents was such a large one which caused the customs officers to blink. It was what the agents appeared to have brought with them, what appeared to be a tyre big enough to fit one of the Constellation's giant under-carriage wheels.

Instead it was an enormous Swiss cheese, weighing almost a hundredweight, and it was being brought over as a gift to the Standard Company, in whose canteen it is now being put to very good use.

National-Councillor Bringolf, chairman of the Parliamentary section of the Swiss Social-Democrat party, yesterday sent a telegram to M. Gottwald, Communist Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia, protesting against the persecution of non-Communists, reported Berne radio. He said:

"I appeal to you to discontinue the persecution of people who hold views differing from yours. Democracy and Socialism are inseparably linked and their realisation and consolidation imply the guarantee for personal freedom and the rights of the people."

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for 1947: Leu & Co., Zurich: 5 per cent.; Volksbank Interlaken, A.G.: 5 per cent. (1946: 5%); Gewerbebank, Zurich: 5 per cent., plus 2 per cent. Jubilee bonus, Solothurner Handelsbank, Solothurn: 5 per cent.

The following couples have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. G. Bretscher, Zurich; Mr. & Mrs. Aloys Gay-Colin, Lutry.

Dr. Marcel Junod, Delegate of the International Red Cross, has received the "Prinz Karl Medal" from the King of Sweden, for his humanitarian work.

Gang lueg d'Heimat a !

Va revoir ton beau Pays !

Va a vedere il tuo Paese !

Va a vera teis Pajais !.....

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