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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Clemente Rezzonico, at present Chargé d'Affaires in Pakistan, to the post of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Chinese Peoples Republic, in Peking.

The new Minister was born at St. Jmier and is a citizen of Pedrinat (Ct. Ticino). He received his schooling at St. Jmier and afterwards studied economic and political science at the University of Berne where he obtained his doctorate.

Dr. Rezzonico entered the Swiss Political Department in 1923 and was subsequently transferred to the Swiss Legations in London and Rome. In 1937, whilst in London, he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. During the last war, Dr. Rezzonico was in charge of the Press section of the Swiss Foreign Office, and from 1946 — 1949 held the post of 1st Counsellor of Legation in Paris, after which he was sent to Pakistan as Chargé d'Affaires.

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The newly elected Federal Councillor, Dr. J. Escher, will take over the Federal Post and Railway Department.

* * *

During the month of August 1950, the Swiss Federal Railways carried 15.27 million passengers, which is 2.22 million less than in August of the previous year, the receipts of which amount to 26.39 million francs (August, 1949: 30.05 million francs).

Goods traffic has increased by 346,000 tons, and amounts to 1.74 million tons, the receipts of which totalled 31.90 million francs (August, 1949: 27.69 million francs).

* * *

The Italian Minister in Berne, Monsieur Egidio Reale, gave a reception in honour of Dr. E. Celio, late Federal Councillor, and newly appointed Swiss Minister to Rome. Amongst the distinguished guests who attended the reception, were the members of the Government *in corpore*, late Federal Councillors Baumann, Minger and Pilet-Golaz, members of the Diplo-

matic Corps as well as a deputation from the canton of Ticino.

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M. A. de Kaenel, Federal Factory Inspector of the District I (Lausanne) is shortly relinquishing his post on reaching retiring age. M. de Kaenel has been in the service of the Confederation for the last 40 years.

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Mr. Miroslav Tucek, Czechoslovak Vice-Consul at Zurich, has asked the Swiss authorities to grant him refuge. He said that he had not been recalled by his Government, but had decided to break with the Communist Party because it was an instrument for enslaving the workers in the interests of Russian expansion.

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Twenty-nine members of the Swiss Parliament have signed a petition asking the Government to explain why certain legations, under the protection of their diplomatic immunity, are circulating bulletins that not only praise the Communist régime but violently attack other countries represented in Switzerland.

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The Swiss Federal railways have addressed to the chief of the Federal Department of Posts and Railways a protest against the proposed road tunnel either through the Great St. Bernard or through Mont Blanc.

The protest against the Great St. Bernard is much the more energetic of the two, since the railways point out that, as well as depriving Switzerland and its railways of much needed tourist traffic if motor-cars can drive straight through to Italy, a consideration which applies to both tunnels, the Great St. Bernard tunnel would have the additional disadvantage of serving no good commercial purpose except for purely local and small-scale traffic. Large-scale traffic such as cereals, coal, and mineral oils would continue to go by railway through the tunnels of the Simplon

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