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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Swiss Parliament has voted to establish Legations in Israel and Jordan. Hitherto, Switzerland has maintained only a Consul-General in Jerusalem, but trade relations have now so developed with Israel to warrant the creation of a full Legation.

During 1949, Switzerland exported to Israel 9,600,000 francs worth of goods, receiving in return only 714,000.—francs, thus giving Switzerland an extremely favourable trade balance.

Customs receipts during the month of September, 1950, reached the sum of 57.2 million francs, an increase of 15.2 million francs, on the figures of September, 1949.

During the first nine months of the current year, 420 million francs for customs duties were collected, which is 69 million francs more than during the same period in 1949.

Circles close to the Federal Government deny that there is any possibility of a large-scale gold transfer from Russia to Switzerland.

They admit that there have been limited transfers from the East to balance trade payments and also a small amount of smuggling, "but nothing on the scale recently alleged in the British Press." Such reports they describe as "completely devoid of foundation."

Federal-Councillor, Dr. J. Escher, has assumed his post as Head of the Federal Post and Railway Department.

Cantonal

Mme. Schmid-Roost, who recently died in Oerlikon, has left an amount of 22,000.—frs. to the Children's Home at Oerlikon (Ct. Zurich). [A.T.S.]

Lieutenant-Colonel William Werdenberg, Director of the Electricity Works of the town of Winterthur, has resigned from his post, he is joining a private concern. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Eugen Vadnai, Editor of the "Schweiz. Verkehrs- und Tarif Zeitung", Zurich, is vacating his post, which he had held for the last 25 years. He is succeeded by Mr. A. P. Held, who since 1949, has been a member of the editorial staff. [A.T.S.]

The fourth member of the gang who robbed the "Bankhaus Winterstein" in Zurich, last month, and decamped with 400,000.—frs., has been arrested in Vienna. Of the sum stolen only 6,000.—frs. has so far been recovered. [A.T.S.]

The firm of "Robert Hotz, Söhne" of Bubikon (Ct. Zurich), has donated an amount of 10,000.—frs. to the "Bürger & Altersheim" in Bubikon. [A.T.S.]

"Der Bund", organ of the Liberal Party of the canton of Berne, has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation, on which occasion the paper published a special number comprising 144 pages.

Mr. Erich Blumer, Head-Cashier of the Swiss National Bank in Berne, has recently completed 40 years service with this Bank. His appointment as chief-cashier dates from 1936. [A.T.S.]

The "Radio Berne" has celebrated its 25th anniversary. [A.T.S.]

According to the figures published, 483 traffic accidents have been reported in the canton of Berne during the month of September. (September, 1949: 428); 362 persons (1949: 336) were injured of whom 9 (1949: 8) succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

The well-known Music Publishing firm, "Müller & Schade, A.G." (formerly Müller-Gyr) in Berne, has celebrated its 100th Jubilee. [A.T.S.]

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