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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur August Ochsenbein, at present Counsellor of Legation in Madrid, to the post of Consul General in Barcelona.

M. Ochsenbein, was born in 1901 in Solothurn and received the degree of doctor of political science at the University of Berne. He entered the Diplomatic service in 1925, and has held various posts in Manchester, Danzig, Breslau and Berlin. He was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation in 1941. In the year 1946, he held the post of Chargé d'Affaires in Vienna. Since 1948, he has been 1st Counsellor of Legation at the Swiss Legation in Madrid.

Monsieur William Warnock, Minister of the Republic of Eire, has presented his credentials to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation. He formerly represented his country in Stockholm.

Minister Warnock is the first Minister of Eire in Switzerland, as this country was hitherto represented by a Chargé d'Affaires.

General Mohammed Omar Khan, the newly appointed Minister of Afghanistan, has presented his credentials to M. Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation. He was until recently Minister of War in Kabul.

Devadas Ghandi, son of the late Mahatma Ghandi was received in Berne by the President of the Swiss Confederation, and entertained at an official reception. Mr. Ghandi, is the Editor-in-Chief of the "Hindustan Times" and President of the Association of Indian Editors.

Professor Erhard, Minister of Economy for Western Germany, at present in Switzerland, has paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Swiss Confederation.

Customs receipts during the month of January, 1950, totalled 33.6 million francs, or 0.9 million francs less than in January, 1949.

In a referendum, the Swiss electorate rejected by 386,172 votes to 333,223 a law which had been accepted by Parliament granting subsidies to firms for housing programmes.

Cantonal

The Government of the canton of Uri has officially received the recently appointed Army-Corps Commander Nager of Realp. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1949, 418 traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Schwyz; 227 persons were injured, 13 of whom succumbed to their injuries. In 23 cases, the accidents happened through drivers being under the influence of alcohol. [A.T.S.]

The proprietress of a tobacco and cigar shop at the "Franziskanerplatz", in Lucerne, was attacked by an Italian, who entered the establishment to make a purchase. Whilst going to serve him, the man suddenly hit her on the head with a truncheon and knocked her down.

The woman was fortunately able to reach the door, where she cried for help. The attacker then took to his heels, but was hotly pursued by a policeman and arrested, an accomplice who had been on the watch was arrested later on. Fortunately the attacked woman received only slight injuries. [A.T.S.]

Emil Schill a well-known landscape painter, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Lucerne. He is a citizen of Basle. [A.T.S.]

The Senate of the University of Zurich has elected Dr. Paul Karrer, Professor of Philosophy, rector of the University for the years 1950-1952. [A.T.S.]

René Thiessing, formerly head of the Publicity Service of the Swiss Federal Railways, and later on

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