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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Ernst Schlatter, Chargé d'Affaires in Columbia, will represent the Swiss Government at the installation festivities of Monsieur Jacobo Arbenz, the newly elected President of the Republic of Guatemala.

* * *

The Federal Council has re-elected National-Councillor, Dr. A. Müller (Amriswil) as President of the "Bankrat" of the National Bank, and M. E. Renaud (Rochefort) as its Vice-President for a period of four years.

* * *

Monsieur Ed. von Steiger, President of the Swiss Confederation and Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, have received the newly appointed Minister of the U.S.S.R., M. Feodor Molotschkow, on the occasion of the presentation of his credentials. He was until recently at the Foreign Office in Moscow.

* * *

The Swiss electorate, in a country-wide vote, rejected a Bill empowering the Federal Government to regulate the conditions of Road Transport. The figures are 318,121 for, and 399,614 against.

Cantonal

Professor Edouard Blaser, a teacher of the French language and literature at the cantonal commercial school in Zurich, has celebrated the anniversary of his 70th birthday, in Zurich. Professor Blaser, a Neuchâtelois, is co-founder with Professor Ch. Clerc of the "Société des amis de la culture française". [A.T.S.]

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During the month of January, 1951, 422 traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Zurich (January, 1950: 378). Nine people have been killed and 131 injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Lorenz Caspar, of Hinwil and Klosters, has been elected States Prosecutor of the canton of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Professor Otto Gröger (Herrliberg), a lecturer for 30 years at the University of Zurich, and for 40 years Editor of the "Schweiz. Idiotikons", has retired from his post. He recently celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

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The "Corso Theater, A.G.", which runs a Music Hall in Zurich, has gone into liquidation. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mme. Eugénie Frésey, of Grandvillard, has celebrated her 100th birthday, she is a sister of Abbé Pithoud, vicar of Lessec. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Otto Stocker, from 1907-1930, head of the "Lehrstellenvermittlung" of the Pestalozzi Society, has celebrated his 80th birthday in Basle. From 1916-1932, he occupied the position of central secretary of the "Schweiz. Verbandes für Berufsberatung und Lehrlingsfürsorge", he was also Editor of the periodical "Berufsberatung und Berufsbildung". [A.T.S.]

* * *

Professor Dr. W. F. Bürgi, has been elected "Rektor" of the commercial university in St. Gall, in succession to Professor Theo Keller, who has recently retired from the post. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Fritz Bächler, of Ebnat (Ct. St. Gall), has left an amount of 30,000.—frs. to his native commune for the support of its poor people. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The electorate of the canton of Vaud has rejected by 35,856 votes to 23,153, to give women the vote in local elections. [A.T.S.]

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The Charles Veillon prize for 1951, amounting to 5,000.—frs., has been awarded to the vaudois writer, F. Landry, for his novel "La Devinaize" which was published in 1950. [A.T.S.]

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The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Rudolf Schläfli, for many years Director of the "Landwirtschaftliche Schule" in Sursee (Ct. Lucerne), at the age of 81.

Colonel Fernand Chenevière, from 1939-1945, Commander of the territorial district of Geneva, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva from 1936-1948. Colonel Chenevière was killed when his car was caught at a level crossing by a train near Founex. He was 64 years of age.

Max Brefin, a teacher at the "Konservatorium" and "Musikschule" in Basle, at the age of 59.

Jos. Fritsche, a former member of the government of the canton of Appenzell a. Rh., in Appenzell, aged 69.

Oscar, Louis Curti, partner in the firm Curti & Cie, (Wholesale Grocers), in Lucerne, and President of the Board of the firm Battaillard & Cie, (Wine Merchants), in Lucerne, at the age of 75.

Dr. Karl Kubik, Journalist, since 1915 in the service of the "Schweiz. Depeschagentur, Berne), in Gersau, aged 66.

Oscar Schäubli, Publisher and Editor, of the illustrated paper "Schweizer Familie", in Zurich, at the age of 55.

Franz Glättli, from 1908-1935, States Prosecutor of the canton of Zurich, in Zurich, aged 84.

Eugène Jaquet, formerly Director of the watch makers school of Geneva, in Geneva, aged 67.

Andreas Curt Michel, "Stadtpfarrer" since 1925 and Honorary Dean of the Cathedral St. Ursen, Solothurn, since 1950, in Solothurn at the age of 63.

Jean Brüscheweiler, from 1917-1938, a judge of the Supreme Court of the canton of Thurgau, and for a number of years President of the "Kassations" Tribunal, in Amriswil (Ct. Thurgau), aged 81. The deceased was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau for 18 years.

Jos. Gasser-Imfeld, President of the commune of Sarnen and "Kantonsrat", in Sarnen, at the age of 77.

Eduard Steinhäuslein, Banker, and since 1932, Swiss Consul in Florence, in Lausanne, aged 58.

Jules Lachenal, from 1904-1912, and from 1928-1943, priest at the Notre Dame Church at Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 83.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. G. Schaub-Hunziker, of Zofingen; Mr. and Mrs. A. Gujan-Mathis, of Küblis (Prätigau); Mr. and Mrs. E. Oetiker-Mäder, of Kemptal, nr. Rapperswil; Mr. and Mrs. K. Friedrich-Nachbaur, of Basle; Mr. and Mrs. J. Egli-Keller, of Glattfelden (Ct. Zurich).

[A.T.S.]

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An order for a 57,500-k.v.a. three-phase generator has been placed with the Oerlikon Machinery Factory, of Zurich-Oerlikon, by the Mexican Comision Federal de Electricidad, it is announced by the Oerlikon Company. The generator, operating at 500 r.p.m., will be the third unit in the Ixtapantongo power station,

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where two American-produced generators are already in operation.

Some months ago, Oerlikon succeeded in obtaining a contract for two 10,000-k.v.a. 375-r.p.m. generators, driven by water turbines, for another Mexican power station located above the Ixtapantongo plant.

* * *

By arrangement with the central Government of the Chinese People's Republic, a Red Cross mission left Geneva by air for Peking. It consists of Dr. Paul Ruegger, President of the International Committee, Mme. Ruegger, Mr. Alfred Escher, the President's personal adviser, and two medical delegates. Dr. Ruegger will confer with Mr. Chou En-lai, the Chinese Prime Minister, and with Mme. Li Teh-chuan.

No reply has yet been received from the North Korean Government to Dr. Ruegger's suggestion in January that he should travel to North Korea for discussions on prisoners of war.

* * *

Swiss imports of Egyptian raw cotton rose from a value of 31,500,000 francs in 1949 to 59m. francs worth last year, and thus reached a new record high. An official report on Swiss foreign trade during the second half of 1950 points out that these cotton purchases resulted in abnormally strong demand for Egyptian currency. Consequently, the freeing of the Egyptian pound quotations, agreed upon under the Swiss-Egyptian commercial agreement of 6th April, 1950, with a view to cheapening the price of Egyptian cotton, did not fulfil its purpose to the extent anticipated earlier.