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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Funeral services for King George VI were held in all major Swiss cities; that in Berne, at the Minster, was attended by Dr. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Councillors Etter and Petitpierre, Federal Chancellor Oser, all the members of the Bernese Government, the British Minister and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

* * *

On the occasion of the death of King George the VI, the President of the National Council, has addressed the following telegram to the Speaker of the House of Commons:

"Deeply moved by the news of the death of His Majesty King George VI, I beg you to accept and extend to the members of the House of Commons, the sincere condolences of the National Council of Switzerland. Sig. Karl Renold, President of the National Council."

* * *

Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, Swiss Minister in London represented the Federal Council at the funeral of King George VI, and Colonel Hans Ryser, Military and Air Attaché at the Swiss Legation in London, represented the Swiss army. Captain E. Specker, Assistant Military and Air Attaché in London was also a member of the Swiss Delegation.

* * *

Monsieur Jean Chauvel, has presented his credentials as French Ambassador, to Dr. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

The newly appointed ambassador was general secretary at the French Foreign Office for four years, and since 1949, has been permanent French delegate at UNO.

* * *

Fieldmarshall Montgomery has paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Swiss Confederation.

Switzerland's delegation at the forthcoming German Foreign Debt Conference in London will consist of seven members.

Minister, Dr. W. Stucki, delegate to the Swiss Federal Council for special missions, will be the head of the delegation. It will lie in his discretion to increase the number of delegates by calling on experts if and when needed.

In view of the status of Switzerland as a neutral country it may be anticipated that reservations will be made on the part of the Swiss delegation in case decisions are taken which are not deemed to be compatible with Switzerland's neutrality.

* * *

During December 1951, the Swiss Federal Railways carried 16.94 million passengers or 1.65 million more than in December 1950. Receipts from passenger service amounted to 21.09 million francs, which exceeds by 2.05 million francs the receipts during December of the previous year.

Goods traffic has increased by 77,000 tons, and reached 1.74 million tons. Receipts thereof amounted to 33.79 million francs of 5.10 million francs more than in December, 1950.

* * *

Customs receipts during the month of January, 1952, amounted to 43.4 million francs, 4.5 million less than in January, 1951.

Cantonal

Dr. Siegfried Frey, Director of the "Schweizerischen Depeschagentur", has been appointed "Privatdozent" for "Wissenschaftliche Zeitungskunde und praktische Journalistik" at the University of Berne. [A.T.S.]

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