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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Sir Lionel Lamb, formerly *Chargé d'Affaires* in Peking has been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Swiss Confederation, in succession to Sir Patrick Scrivener, who will shortly be retiring from the Foreign Service.

Sir Lionel Lamb was the British *Chargé d'Affaires ad interim* in Peking from March, 1951, until he returned home on leave in June this year. Previously he had spent almost the whole of his service in China.

Sir Patrick Scrivener, who has reached the retiring age of 60, has been head of the British Mission in Berne since January, 1950. Previously he had held appointments in Warsaw, Cairo, Budapest, Addis Ababa, Ankara, Rome, Lisbon, Damascus and Singapore.

Dr. Markus Burkhard has been elected Director of the Federal Air Office, in succession to M. Louis Clerc who is vacating his post on reaching retiring age.

Dr. Burkhard was born in 1902 in Sumiswald (Oft. Berne), he studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Heidelberg and Berne.

In 1930, he joined "Alpar" as a pilot, and a year later he was engaged by "Swissair" in the same capacity. From 1933-34, he acted as a flying instructor at the Dübendorf Airport. Dr. Burkhard entered into the service of the Federal Air Office in 1934, where he occupied several posts until 1948, when he was appointed Vice-Director. He holds the rank of a Colonel in the Swiss Air Force.

The retiring Director of the Federal Air Office, M. Louis Clerc, was born in 1888, and on the completion of his studies established himself as a lawyer at La Chaux-de-Fonds. In 1927, he took over the Presidency of the "Société suisse des fabricants de boîtes en or", and also became a member of the Board of the "Kantonalbank".

In 1932, M. Clerc entered into the service of the Federal Air Office as head of the administrative

section, and nine years later (1941) he was elected Director.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Council announced a "practically" balanced draft budget for 1954, with expenditure of £160 million.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of September, 1953, totalled 54.5 million francs, or 3.7 million francs more than during the same period in 1952.

During the first nine months of the current year the receipts amounted to 338.8 million francs, which is 17.3 million francs more than for the same period in 1952.

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The Swiss Federal Railways have carried during September 1953, 18.67 million passengers, or 307,000 more than in September, 1952. Receipts: 27.64 million francs. (Sept., 1952: 27.19 million francs.)

Goods traffic is returned as 1.79 million tons, or 118,000 tons more than during the same period in 1952. Receipts: 33.15 million francs. (Sept., 1952: 31.45 million francs).

Cantonal

Mr. E. Gamper has been elected Chairman of the "Crédit Suisse", Zurich, Dr. A. Linder, former General Manager, has been appointed President of the General Management. Mr. F. Schulthess, former deputy General Manager is to be General Manager, and Mr. J. Jenny has been elected deputy General Manager.

* * *

Mr. Franz Janos, Mayor of the town of Vienna, has paid an official visit to the town of Zurich. He

Xmas Greetings

Following former years' practice we propose to publish again in our December issue a collective greeting.

The high costs of Xmas cards, should induce many of our subscribers to make use of this facility to extend to their friends the compliments of the season.

Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Friday, November 27th, 1953, together with remittance for 6/-.