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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Dr. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, has sent a congratulatory message to President Dwight Eisenhower, on the occasion of his having taken the oath as President of the United States of America.

The President of the Swiss Confederation has expressed to the Governments of Great Britain and Holland the sympathy of the Federal Council and the Swiss people for the catastrophe which has befallen them.

Federal-Councillor, Dr. Escher, head of the Federal Post and Railway Department, has attended a conference of West European Transport Ministers, which took place in Paris from the 29th — 31st of January.

M. Charles, Albert Dubois has been appointed Chief of the Press Service of the Political Department (Foreign Office) in Berne,

He was born in 1910 at Fribourg, and is a citizen of Vevey. He studied law at the Universities of Lausanne and Vienna, and entered the service of the Political Department in 1945. Two years later (1947) he was nominated head of the diplomatic mission to Japan, which post he held until his return to Berne in 1950.

The Swiss Consular Agency of Maracaibo (Venezuela) which had been closed since 1951, has been re-opened. Mr. Max Oberli of Lucerne, has been appointed head of the Agency.

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Georges Perrin to the post of Swiss Consul in Zagreb, in succession to Mr. Albert Cuendet, who has been nominated Swiss Consul in Torino.

Dr. Perrin was born in 1913 in Lausanne and is a citizen of Vuiteboeuf (Ct. Vaud), he entered into the service of the Political Department in 1939. In 1942, he was appointed Attaché of Legation, and two years

later (1944), he was promoted to 2nd Secretary of Legation in which capacity he served at the Swiss Legations in London, Paris and Berlin.

Mr. Frédéric Müller, Honorary Swiss Consul in Luxembourg has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council which has been accepted, and he has been thanked for the services he has rendered.

Mr. Müller was born in 1880 at Emmishofen, (Ct. Thurgau) and was for 25 years, until his retirement in 1945, Manager of the "Internationales Bank, A.G." in Luxembourg. He was appointed Consular Agent in 1945, and eight months later was promoted to the rank of Honorary Consul.

Mgr. Filippo Bernardini, Papal nuncio since 1935, is leaving Berne shortly, owing to another appointment. During his 17 years séjour in our country he has played an important rôle in many international organisations. Mgr. Bernardini is a doctor *honoris causa* of the University of Fribourg.

The Swiss Red Cross has opened a collection for the victims of the flood disasters in England and Holland.

Customs receipts during the month of December, 1952, amounted to 45.6 million francs, or 0.7 million francs less than in December, 1951.

Receipts for the year 1952 amount to 428.1 million francs, which is 11.4 million francs less than for the year 1951.

Cantonal

A fire which broke out at the "Sägewerk & Imprägnieranstalt" of the firm "E. Hüni & Co." in Glattbrugg, (Ct. Zurich) caused damage amounting to 200.000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

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