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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

When the passing away of Queen Mary became known in Berne, Dr. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, at once sent a telegram of condolence, on behalf of the Federal Council and the Swiss people to H.M. the Queen.

The Swiss Foreign Minister, M. Max Petitpierre, addressed a letter of sympathy, on behalf of the Swiss Government to Mr. Anthony Eden, H.M. Foreign Secretary, he also wrote a personal letter to the British Chargé d'Affaires in Berne.

The Swiss Minister in London, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, signed the books at Buckingham Palace, Marlborough House and St. James's Palace, and also wrote a personal letter of condolence to H.M. the Queen, the Queen Mother, and members of the Royal Family.

The Swiss Flags over the Parliament Building in Berne were flown at half mast. Switzerland has been represented at the Funeral by the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté.

* * *

The Italian government has decided to raise their Legation in Berne to an Embassy.

Monsieur Egidio Reale, formerly Italian Minister accredited to the Confederation, has been nominated ambassador, and in this capacity he has presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation.

* * *

Monsieur Renato Villaverde Ariza, the newly appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Cuba, has presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Ph. Etter and Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister.

* * *

The newly appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary, Monsieur Fernando Garcia

Oldini, of the Republic of Chile, has presented his credentials to the President of the Confederation and to the Swiss Foreign Minister.

The National Council, or second chamber, of the Swiss Parliament passed, by 72 votes against 71, a Bill providing for the reorganisation of Federal finances proposed by the Government. This is considered as a Government defeat, and it is expected that the Bill will be withdrawn as a one vote majority clearly indicates that it will be rejected by the electorate.

The reorganisation of the Federal finances, with the object of supplying Federal authorities with the necessary means to carry out their tasks, has been under discussion for nearly two years, and a first Bill was rejected last year by the electorate.

Cantonal

Marie Kaufmann-Studer of Schüpfheim (Lucerne) aged 39 killed her Father, Franz Studer, and her husband, Alfred Kaufmann with an axe. When confessing to the terrible deed she gave as a reason the hopeless financial position of the family; she is the mother of seven children between the ages of two to fifteen. [A.T.S.]

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Dr. E. Vogt, Vice-Director of the "Schweiz. Landesmuseum" and Professor of Ancient History at the University of Zurich, has been made an Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. C. A. Loosli, author, living in Bümpliz has presented his large collection of documents dealing

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