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Mr. Rubattel, president of the Confederation and chief of the department of public economy, has replied in Parliament to a question on American duties on Swiss watches. He emphasized that the United States was taking about 30 per cent of Swiss watch production, and that any rise in American duties might be a blow to the industry and to the 60,000 workers employed in it, especially as business now shows a tendency towards slowing down. The Swiss Government was trying to obtain some fair agreement with the United States.

Mr. Rubattel hoped that the United States would understand the urgent necessity for coming to an agreement. The raising of American duties on Swiss watches to protect the prosperous industry in the United States might be a fatal blow to American-Swiss trade relations.

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Louis François to the post of Honorary Swiss Consul in Dijon, in succession to M. Pierre Oechsli, who had occupied this position for 35 years.

M. François was born in Le Locle in 1916, and is a citizen of Montmollin (Ct. Neuchâtel). He is Manager of a chemical concern, and since 1949, has been President of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in France (Eastern Section).

Swiss authorities are investigating the reported disappearance of 30,000 dollars (10,714 sterling) in banknotes from a mailbag consigned from Geneva to Montevideo.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 16.74 million passengers in May, 1954, or 916,000 more than in May, 1953. Receipts: 27.66 million francs (May, 1953: 24.78 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.76 million tons, which is 206,000 tons more than in May, 1953. Receipts: 33.50 million francs. (May, 1953: 28.80 million francs).

Cantonal

The celebration of the 100th year since the death of P. Alberich Zwyssig, the composer of the Swiss Hymn ("Trittst im Morgenrot daher") was held at the Wettingen monument. Federal Councillor, Dr. Ph. Etter made the principal speech. [A.T.S.]

A serious motoring accident, with the loss of five lives, occurred between Rotkreuz and Holzhäusern (Ct. Zug), when two motor-cars collided. The following were killed: Karl Frei of Zug, his sister Mina Frei, Mlle. Bachmann of Zurich, Mme. Ch. Bertola of Zurich, and Mlle. H. Richenbach of Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

Three people were killed when a privately owned Swiss plane carrying a television film of the Brazil v Mexico world football cup game crashed near Unterägeri (Ct. Zug). The names of the victims are: Christian Kappeler, Industrialist of Lausanne, who piloted the machine, Max Job (40) of Hedingen (Ct. Zurich), and Hans Hebeisen (36) of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Max Ott, Director of the "Schweiz. Verrechnungsstelle" has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council, which was accepted with thanks for the services he had rendered. [A.T.S.]

M. Jean Gressot (Cons.), National Councillor, and Editor-in-chief of the paper "Le Pays" has been elected Prefect of the district of Porentruy with 3,724 votes. His opponent, Xavier Billieux (Lib.), Town clerk of Porentruy received 3,650 votes. [A.T.S.]

At the recent elections for a Prefect for the Burgdorf district, Mr. Schenkel (B.G.B.) was elected with 3,271 votes, his opponent A. Geyer (Soc.) polled 2,662 votes. [A.T.S.]

Mm. E. Halter-Kuhn of Rorschach has celebrated her 102nd birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

M. André Béchler, a civil engineer and Industrialist of Moutier has celebrated his 50th jubilee as an industrialist. [A.T.S.]

The commune of Lavin (Ct. Grisons) has nominated Mme. Tina Truog-Saluz of Chur, an honorary citizen in recognition for her literary work. (She was born at Lavin). [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the opening of the Federal Singing Competition in St. Gall, Monsieur R. Rubattel, President of the Swiss Confederation, conveyed the greetings of the Federal Council. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Ernest Rodet (Soc.) of Arbon (Ct. Thurgau) has been elected a member of the National Council in succession to Rudolf Schümperli (Romanshorn) who has vacated his seat. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Rolf Weber, of Arbon, has been elected President of the District Court of Arbon. [A.T.S.]

M. Albert Picot, States Councillor, and a member of the Government of the canton of Geneva, has been elected President of the "Cercle de la presse et des amitiés étrangères." [A.T.S.]

One of the methods of popularising electric cooking in Zurich is to have a daily recipe available by dialling a code on the automatic telephone system. About 1,000 calls a day are made for this recipe in the city of Zurich alone.

Switzerland had 52 per cent more tourists last year than in 1950.

Switzerland is to claim 1,828,000 francs (about £152,000) expenses for her membership of neutral commissions in Korea. The government announced.

NEWS FROM THE LEGATION

The Swiss Minister and Madame Henry de Torrenté have given a cocktail party on Tuesday, July 13th, at 21, Bryanston Square, W.1., in honour of the Théâtre de Poche of Geneva.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, July 30th, 1954.

We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donation over and above their subscriptions: Mrs. A. Rossier, A. O. Bucher, L. Moore, F. Sohm, G. Marchand, O. Ernst, E. M. Hamilton, R. Dupraz, A. C. Baume, Ch. L. Chapuis, H. Koch, G. Senn, F. C. Lichtensteiger, H. Ott, C. de Mierre.