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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Swiss Federal Railways carried in June 1957 17.6 million passengers, or 1.4 million more than in June 1956. Receipts: 27.9 million francs (June 1956: 25.7 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.09 million tons, which is 200,000 tons less than during the same period in 1956. Receipts: 40.4 million francs (June 1956: 40.2 million francs).

* * *

The Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) has received news from the Swiss Legation in Mexico that in the recent earthquake disaster no Swiss nationals were hurt.

* * *

On the occasion of the 1st of August celebration Dr. Th. Heuss, President of the West German Republic, who is on holiday in Sils Maria (Ct. Grisons), has sent a congratulatory message to Dr. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation.

* * *

The Israeli Minister in Berne, Monsieur Yeshayazu Aviad, accredited to the Confederation since October 1956, has died at a hospital in Berne.

* * *

Argentina has rejected the Swiss Government's protest against cancellation of an extension of the concessions granted by the municipality of Buenos Aires 21 years ago to the Compania Argentina de Electricidad and the Compania Italo-Argentina de Electricidad, in both of which Swiss capital is invested.

The Swiss Note reserved the right to reparations for damage caused to Swiss interests. The Argentine reply said it was impossible to accept the protests, because the two companies were constituted in Argentina and were subject to Argentine sovereignty exclusively.

The Swiss Government has sent a cheque for 4,550,000.— francs (approximately £375,000) in response to the appeal launched jointly by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the High Commissioner for Refugees on behalf of the Hungarians in Austria and Yugoslavia.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Minister Dr. Friedrich Gygax to the post of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to Poland in succession to Minister Fuchs.

Minister Gygax was born in 1902 and is a citizen of Seeberg (Ct. Berne). He studied *juris prudence* at the Universities of Berne and Berlin. On the conclusion of his studies he occupied posts in commercial concerns and in 1934 entered the service of the Commercial Division of the Federal Economic Department. Eleven years later (1945) Minister Gygax was transferred to the Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) and sent to New York as Consul General, where he remained until 1956. On his return to Berne he held the post of deputy to the head of the department for Political Affairs. At the beginning of this year he received the title of Minister.

Cantonal

The small village of Buerglen (Ct. Uri), the birthplace of William Tell, has celebrated its 1,000th anniversary.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

A collision occurred on the route Lachen—Altdorf, when a local train ran into the back of the stationary

CITY SWISS CLUB

A Card Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3rd 1957. As no circulars will be sent out for this meeting will members kindly note the date and advise the Dorchester Hotel of their intention to be present by the day previous to the Meeting. (This can be done by telephoning Miss Martin at the Dorchester Hotel, Telephone: MAYfair 8888).

Th. von SPEYR,
Hon. Secretary.