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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The winter session of the Federal Chambers, which will last three weeks, began on the 2nd of this month.

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Mr. Robert Bratschi (Socialist) was elected President of the National Council for 1957-1958. He was born in 1891 and is a citizen of Bœzingen (Ct. Berne). After 10 years' service with the Swiss Federal Railways, he was from 1920 to 1953 General Secretary, and since 1946 also President of the Swiss railwaymen's union. From 1934 to 1953 Bratschi presided over the "Schweiz. Gewerkschaftsbund", and since 1953 has occupied the post of Director of the Berne-Loetschberg-Simplon railway. He entered the National Council in 1922.

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Dr. jur. Fritz Staehli (Cons.Chr.Soc.) was elected President of the States Council. He was born in 1895 and hails from Siebnen (Ct. Schwyz). After studying law he practised as an advocate until, in 1937, he was elected President of the Tribunal Schwyz.

Dr. Staehli was a member of the National Council from 1928 to 1939, and since 1939 has sat in the States Council.

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Dr. Augustin Lusser (Cons.Chr.Soc.) has been elected Vice-President of the States Council. He was born in 1896 and is a citizen of Bar (Ct. Zug). He studied national economy and law at the Universities of Fribourg and Berne. In 1936 he became a member of the "Kantonsrat", over which he presided in 1940. Since 1939 Dr. Lusser has occupied the post of Mayor of the town of Zug. He entered the States Council in 1941.

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The Federal Council has appointed Minister Agostino Soldati to the post of delegate of the Swiss Government to the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC), and head of the Swiss delegation, in succession to Minister Gerard Bauer, who vacated the post in July 1957.

Minister Soldati was born in 1910 in Buenos-Aires and hails from Neggio (Ct. Ticino). He entered the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1938 and successively occupied posts at the Swiss Legations in Rome, Berlin, Lisbon and Paris. In 1956 Minister Soldati was appointed Permanent Observer at the United Nations in New York with the rank of Minister.

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The Federal Council has raised the Swiss Legation in Yugoslavia to the status of Embassy, and the Minister, Monsieur Jean-Frédéric Wagnière, to the rank of Ambassador.

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Minister Felix Schnyder, at present Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in Israel, has been appointed Permanent Observer at the United Nations in New York. He was born in Burgdorf and is a citizen of Kriens (Ct. Lucerne). Minister Schnyder studied law at the University of Berne, and afterwards occupied various posts in commercial concerns.

In 1940 he entered the service of the Swiss Foreign Office and held posts in Moscow, Berlin and Washington. In March 1957 he was nominated Swiss Minister in Tel Aviv.

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Mr. Richard Mordasini, Swiss Consul at Naples, is vacating his post for health reasons. His successor is Mr. Charles Mayor, at present Vice-Consul at Lorenzo-Marques, who has been promoted to the rank of Consul. He was born in 1908 and is a citizen of Echallens (Ct. Vaud). Consul Mayor entered the service of the Political Department in 1934 and formerly held appointments in São-Paulo and Johannesburg.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique (LONDON GROUP)

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