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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has promoted Monsieur Pierre Micheli, Swiss Minister in Paris, to the rank of Ambassador. The Legation in Paris will thus assume the status of an Embassy.

* * *

Federal-Councillor Chaudet, head of the Federal Military Department, in reply to an interpellation put before the National Council by National-Councillor Gruetter concerning *l'affaire* Colonel Ryser, gave full particulars of the happenings. He emphasized that the Federal authorities at once made exhaustive investigations as to the relevant facts of the case, which proved that Colonel Ryser could not be prosecuted under the Swiss penal code. He informed the interpellator that his Department has entrusted Federal Judge Schoenenberger with the task of investigating whether Colonel Ryser can be charged for alleged violation of the Swiss civil statute. This report, Federal Councillor Chaudet said, has not yet been submitted.

* * *

A Swiss Government commission of experts has published plans for a compulsory Federal Health and Disability Insurance scheme, largely following the outline of the old-age pension scheme that has been in operation since 1948; the scheme is estimated to cost 143 million francs a year and provides for a special fund to which the Government would contribute 50 per cent, and the workers and employers 25 per cent each. All employed persons would contribute 0.2 per cent of their total income to the fund, and this contribution would be matched by an equivalent payment from the employers. The payments would represent an increase of one-tenth on those now being made for the old-age pension system.

* * *

The receipts of the Federal Customs Administration for the month of February, 1957, amount to 70.1

million francs; of this amount the Confederation receives 54.4 million francs or 12.4 millions francs more than in February, 1956.

* * *

Marshal Nieh Yung-chen, Vice-President of the defence committee of the People's Republic of China, has paid a courtesy visit to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister in Berne. The Federal-Council has entertained the distinguished visitor to a luncheon.

* * *

Monsieur Aonso Alvarez de Toledo y Mencos, the newly appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of Spain, has presented his credentials to Dr. H. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation, and M. M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister.

Monsieur William Fry Valle-Riestra was received at the Palais Fédéral in Berne by the President of the Swiss Confederation and the Swiss Foreign Minister on presenting his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Peru.

Cantonal

Dr. L. de Weck has been elected head surgeon of the "Humilimont" clinic in the Gruyère district, in succession of the late Dr. R. Pasquier. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. U. Baumgartner and Dr. A. Lorenz, both members of the Superior Court of the canton of Appenzell A.Rh., have tendered their resignations; the respective successors will be elected at the next "Landsgemeinde". [A.T.S.]

CITY SWISS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on Tuesday, April 30th, 1957, at 6.30 for 7 p.m.,
at Dorchester Hotel, W.1.

Agenda: Minutes of last meeting.

Admissions.

Resignations.

President's Report.

Treasurer's Report.

Elections.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of Dorchester Hotel, W.1, to reach him not later than, Monday, April 29th, 1957.

THE COMMITTEE.