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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal At the request of the Persian Government, which has no diplomatic representation in Israel, and with the consent of the Israeli Government, the Swiss Federal Government is to represent Persian interests in Tel Aviv.

* * *

Monsieur Corrado Baldoni, *chef du protocole* at the Italian Foreign Office, has been appointed Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Italy to the Swiss Confederation, in succession to Ambassador Maurilio Coppini, who has represented his country in Berne since 1955.

The new Ambassador was from 1943 to 1946 representative at the Vatican, from 1948 to 1952 Consul-General at Tangier, and from 1952 to 1955 Ambassador in Ottawa, after which he held the post of *chef du protocole* at the Italian Foreign Office.

* * *

Monsieur Prospero Carbonell, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Colombia, has presented his credentials to Dr. Th. Holenstein, President of the Swiss Confederation, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of March 1958 total 77.5 million francs, of which amount the Confederation receives 59 million francs, or 3.7 million francs less than in March 1957.

During the first three months of the current year the receipts amounted to 161.2 million francs, which is 12 million francs less than during the same period in 1957.

* * *

The Federal Council has decided to open a Consulate-General in Damascus, the Consular district to extend to Syria. Monsieur Jacques Mallet, at present deputy to the *chef du protocole* at the Political Department in Berne, has been appointed Consul-General.

M. Mallet was born in 1913, and is a citizen of Geneva. He studied Economics at the University of Geneva, and entered the diplomatic service in 1942. He was successively attached to the Legations in Paris and Baghdad.

* * *

The Austrian Defence Minister, Herr Ferdinand Graf, arrived in Berne on a short visit during which he inspected various military establishments and training courses. He paid a courtesy visit to Dr. Th. Holenstein, President of the Swiss Confederation, and M. Chaudet, head of the Federal Military Department. At the conclusion of his visit he was the guest of the Federal Council at a dinner at which were also present army-corps commander Annasohn, chief of the General Staff, and army-corps commander Frick.

* * *

Cantonal The accounts of the canton of Schwyz for 1957 close with a credit balance of 25,112.— francs. The Government of the canton of Obwalden has accepted the accounts for 1957, which show a small credit balance of 697.— francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The show-windows of a photographer's establishment at the Weinmarkt in Lucerne were smashed, and goods valued at 4,000.— francs were stolen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Remigi Joller, a member of the Government of the canton of Nidwalden, has tendered his resignation. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following unopposed members of the Winterthur municipal council were re-elected: Dr. Hans Ruegg (Democrat) with 7,282 votes, Ferdinand Brunner (Democrat) 6,957 votes, Dr. Hans Bachmann (Liberal) 6,876 votes, Albert Schaetti (BGB party) 6,708 votes, Emil Frei (Socialist) 4,654 votes, Edwin Hardmeier (Socialist) 4,480 votes, and Heinrich Zindel (Socialist) 4,325 votes. Dr. Hans Ruegg has been re-elected as Mayor of Winterthur with 6,579 votes. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two German nationals who had stolen goods to the value of 10,000.— francs from a jeweller's shop in Winterthur, by smashing a shop-window, were arrested in Herisau. A part of the spoils was recovered.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Jewellery and watches to the value of between 30,000 and 40,000.— francs were stolen from an establishment at the Luzernerstrasse in Cham (Ct. Zug). Burglars stole goods valued at 15,000.— francs from a jeweller's shop in Baar. [A.T.S.]

Rudolf Berchtold (76), a messenger of the "Schweiz. Depeschen Agentur" Berne, has celebrated his 60th service jubilee with this concern, and has now gone into retirement. [A.T.S.]

Three persons were seriously injured and one person was killed when a motor-car collided with a motor-cycle at Sachseln. The deceased was Albert Matter-Wehner (66), of Stans. [A.T.S.]

An attack was made by two masked bandits on the booking-clerk of the railway station at Sophières; they escaped with the contents of the till amounting to several hundred francs. The gangsters, 19 and 21 years old, were later arrested by the police; both were in possession of loaded revolvers. [A.T.S.]

Dr. H. Schaffner (Evangelical party) has been elected President of the Grand Council of the canton Basle-Town. Mr. Max Wullschleger (Socialist) was elected President of the cantonal Government, and Dr. A. Schaller (Radical) Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

A woman motorist was sentenced by the police-court in Basle to six days' imprisonment and a fine of 150.— francs, for having driven a car whilst under the influence of alcohol. [A.T.S.]

The art prize for 1958 of the town of Basle was awarded to the painter, Niklaus Stoecklin. [A.T.S.]

Burglars broke open a safe at the premises occupied by the "Kantonallbank" at the Basle Fair. Notes amounting to 55,000.— francs were packed in sacks ready for removal, when the intruders were disturbed by a charwoman. They decamped leaving most of their booty behind. It was ascertained that only the amount of 5,000.— francs was missing. [A.T.S.]

Goods valued at 15,000.— francs were stolen from a jeweller's establishment in the Freie Strasse in Basle. [A.T.S.]

A registered letter containing bank-notes to the value of 25,000.— francs has disappeared from the railway station office of Sargans. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Augustin Benz (85), of Marbach (Ct. St. Gall), was run over by a motor-car; he was taken to hospital at Altstaetten, where he died from his injuries. [A.T.S.]

A medical student, Urs Hemmi (18), son of Dr. Hans Hemmi, of Binningen, was buried by an avalanche when on a ski-ing excursion in the Grialetsch

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district (Ct. Grisons); when a rescue party reached him he was found to be dead. [A.T.S.]

An attack with the object of obtaining money was made on Mr. and Mrs. Gruner-Urech, of Seon (Ct. Aargau), by a man named Reinhard (23), of Suniswald, who had only recently been discharged from prison. The criminal, who was hiding in the house, first attacked the wife, aged 69, with a bayonet, demanding money; on her calling for help, her husband (67) arrived, and was also attacked. In the meantime, the woman was able to escape from the house and call for help. The attacker was overpowered by some workmen and handed over to the police. The injured pair were taken to hospital, having suffered severe injuries. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Grisons for 1957, balance; those of the canton of Ticino close with a credit balance of 13,268.— francs [A.T.S.]

The jewellery establishment of Held in Frauenfeld was entered by burglars, who stole 150 wrist-watches to the value of 15,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

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OFFICES IN LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW BIRMINGHAM DUBLIN

Two schoolboys, Alain Ravay (15) and Pierre Alain (14), of Lausanne, were drowned when their sailing boat overturned, near Vidy, owing to strong winds.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The 31st conference of Swiss Rotary Clubs took place at Montreux, under the chairmanship of M. J. Cornu (La Chaux-de-Fonds).

There are fifty-five Rotary Clubs in existence in Switzerland, with a membership of about 2,300.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

On 1st April 1957 the population of the town of Lausanne numbered 118,533. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two sisters, Therese Lauber (20) and Agnes Lauber (19), of Taesch, lost their lives in an avalanche near Findelen (Ct. Valais). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The show-windows of a jeweller's firm in La Chaux-de-Fonds were smashed and goods valued at 10,000.— francs stolen. Two young men (17 and 20 years old) were arrested by the police, and the stolen goods were recovered. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland :

Adolf Schaer, publisher of the "Oberländer Tagblatt" Thun, in Berne, at the age of 69.

Julius Otter, since 1955 vice-director of the "Solothurner Handelsbank", in Solothurn, aged 63.

Colonel Fritz Graf, "Platzkommandant" of Winterthur, in Winterthur, at the age of 61.

Dr. Oscar Bernhard Cappis, from 1922 to 1942 "Bundesstadtredaktor" of the "Basler Nachrichten", in Davos, aged 61. The deceased held the rank of Colonel of Infantry in the army.

Dr. Georg Schmid, Professor of the Veterinary Medical Faculty of the University of Berne, in Nervi (whilst on holiday), at the age of 60.

Dr. med. Richard Allemann, Professor of Medicine at the University of Zurich, and at one time a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich, in Zurich, aged 66.

Apollonino Pessina, sculptor, in Ligornetto (Mendrisio), at the age of 79.

Hans Fischer, animal painter and etcher, in Interlaken, aged 49. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor Dr. Robert Faesi (75), of Zurich. He studied Philosophy at the Universities of Zurich, Berlin, Paris, London and Rome. In 1922 he was appointed Professor of Modern German Literature at the University of Zurich.

Professor Faesi is the author of a number of novels and plays, amongst the best-known are "Stadt der Vaeter", "Stadt der Freiheit", "Stadt des Friedens", "Das Opferspiel", "Das Antlitz der Erde", and "Füsiler Wipf". In 1943 he received the Gottfried Keller Prize of the Martin Bodmer Foundation, and in 1945 the Literature Prize of the town of Zurich.

Professor Theodor Reh (80), of Geneva, a former Professor of Hygiene and Bacteriology at the University of Geneva.

Madame Katharina Baratto-Peter (101), of Neuhausen a. Rheinfall, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Schaffhausen.

Fritz Ruef (70), of Langenthal, manager of the printing works "Merkur" A.G. Langenthal, and President of the Kantonalbernischen Zeitungsverlegerverein". [A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACIES.

The late Fräulein Anna Dinkel, of Sisseln (Ct. Aargau), has left her entire fortune, amounting to 32,000.— francs, to the people of Sisseln. (16,000 francs to the community, and 16,000.— francs to the "Kapellenverein"). [A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. G. Getaz-Juvet of Fleurier, Mr. & Mrs. Joh. Weber-Dolder of Meilen.

Mr. & Mrs. A. Wyss-Hunziker of Basle have celebrated their iron-wedding anniversary (65 years).

VARIOUS.

The Swiss commercial fleet on the high seas on 31st December 1957 comprised 22 vessels with a tonnage of 960,000. These ships are manned by 677 seamen of whom 366 are of Swiss nationality.

* * *

An aerial cable-way in the heart of Switzerland's largest town is to open in May, it was announced by the organisers of "SAFFA 1958", the second national exhibition "Women of Switzerland — their Life — their Work", which will take place in Zurich from 17th July to 15th September, 1958. This will be the first "SAFFA" attraction to be enjoyed by the public. The cable-way will be some thousand yards long and will consist of 85 gondolas; it is to link the exhibition grounds on the shore of Lake Zurich (near Wollishofen Station) with the centre of the city (near Hotel Baur au Lac).

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