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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council announces the following changes in the diplomatic representations abroad.

Monsieur Jean Frédéric Wagnière, at present Ambassador to Yugoslavia, has been transferred to Iceland as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in succession to Monsieur Otto Seifert.

Monsieur Anton Roy Ganz, Ambassador in Iran, and Minister to Afghanistan, is going to Yugoslavia in succession to Monsieur Wagnière.

Monsieur Walter Bossi, of the Federal Political Department in Berne, has been appointed Ambassador to Cuba, and Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Dominican Republic with residence in Havana.

Monsieur Roy Hunziker, of the Federal Political Department, has been nominated Ambassador to Finland in succession to Monsieur F. Real.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 18 million passengers during the month of December 1958, or 200,000 fewer than in December 1957. Receipts: 27.6 million francs (December 1957: 27.9 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.97 million tons, which is 140,000 tons more than during the same period in 1957. Receipts: 41.6 million francs (December 1957: 38.5 million francs).

* * *

Cantonal

A stranger entered the bicycle shop Wirth & Arnold, at the Seilergraben in Zurich, and without uttering a word fired a shot at the proprietor, Mr. Franz Arnold, which hit him near the heart. He was taken to hospital and underwent an emergency operation. So far no arrest has been made. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A man, who has since been identified as the notorious British bank robber, Donald Brown, alias Donald Hume, entered the Rämistrasse branch office of the "Gewerbebank" Zurich. Jumping on the counter and brandishing a revolver, he demanded the handing over of the money from the cashier, who

refused — whereupon he fired a shot at him wounding him in the stomach. He then attacked another employee by hitting him on the head with his revolver. An attempt to open a safe proved unsuccessful. Brown then hurriedly left the premises, hotly pursued by one of the Bank's employees and an apprentice.

Near the Oberdorf, a taxi driver, Arthur Maag (50) tried to stop the gangster but was shot at and killed. A cook (35) took over the pursuit and, tackling him, managed to wrench the revolver from his hand; then, with the assistance of some passers-by, he overwhelmed and detained Brown until the police arrived.

The cook who courageously stopped the murderer received a reward of 1,000.— francs from the police. The dependants of the taxi-driver who was killed will receive 50,000.— francs from an insurance taken out by the police. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the "Metallveredlungs Anstalt" at the Freilagerstrasse in Zurich-Albisrieden caused damage estimated at several hundred thousand francs. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1958 of the canton of Zurich close with a credit balance of 8,286,143.— francs. [A.T.S.]

The commune of Regensberg has nominated Paul Haupt, publisher in Berne, and Heinrich Hedinger, a teacher in Zurich, as honorary citizens. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1958, 400 traffic accidents were reported in the canton of Zug. 332 persons were injured, 10 of them fatally. [A.T.S.]

A coloured man entered a gunsmith's shop at the Rosiusplatz in Bienne apparently wishing to buy a revolver. After having chosen one he suddenly ran out of the shop and was pursued by the proprietor, who called on passers-by to stop the thief. On the Platz

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