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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Alfred Escher, at present Swiss Ambassador in Rome, has been appointed Ambassador in Bonn, in succession to the late Albert Huber.

Ambassador Escher was born in 1906, and hails from Zurich. He studied Law at the Universities of Zurich, Kiel and Berlin, and obtained his doctorate in 1928 at the University of Zurich. M. Escher entered the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1931, and was sent to London, and afterwards to the Swiss Consulate at Bangkok. In 1935 he was transferred to Warsaw, and four years later (1939) to Berlin.

In 1941 M. Escher went to Ankara with the rank of 1st Secretary of Legation, the following year he was appointed Consul in Baghdad, and from there he went to Athens, where he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. He was transferred to London in 1945, as 1st Counsellor of Legation, and in 1948 the International Committee of the Red Cross appointed M. Escher as Commissioner in connection with the help for refugees in Palestine; he was at the disposal of the Red Cross Committee until June 1951, when he was appointed Swiss Minister in Iran, being at the same time accredited to Afghanistan.

In 1955 M. Escher was appointed Swiss Minister in Rome, in succession to M. Enrico Celio. Two years later (1957) he was promoted to the rank of Ambassador.

* * *

The Federal Council has recently appointed Dr. Albert Weitnauer to the post of Delegate of the Swiss Government for commercial treaties.

Dr. Weitnauer was born in 1916 in Basle, in which town he studied Law at the University. He entered the service of the Swiss Confederation in 1941 as Secretary to the Central Administration of War Economy. At the end of 1946 he joined the Division of Commerce at the Federal Department of Public Economy. From 1948 to 1949 Dr. Weitnauer was attached to the then Swiss Legation at Washington with the rank of 1st Secretary.

On returning to Berné he was appointed, in 1950, Sectional Chief at the Division of Commerce (Federal Political Department). In September 1953 Dr. Weitnauer succeeded Dr. V. Umbricht at the Commercial Division of the then Swiss Legation in London, and a year later (1954) he was transferred to Washington as Counsellor of Legation, returning in 1958 to the Commercial Division at the Federal Department of Public Economy.

* * *

The Spring Session of the two Federal Chambers (National and States Councils) was fixed to begin on Monday, 2nd March, and to last three weeks.

Monsieur Vittorino Veronese, since 1958 General Director of UNESCO, has paid an official visit to the Federal Council in Berné. He was received by M. Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Federal Councillors Petitpierre and Etter in special audience. Later the distinguished visitor was the guest of the Federal Council at a dinner.

* * *

The Federal Council gave the traditional dinner to the Foreign Diplomats and their ladies, accredited to the Confederation. Amongst the Swiss guests were the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor, the Presidents of the National and States Councils, the Presidents of the Governments of the cantons Berné and Fribourg, several army-corps and divisional commanders, and high Government officials.

Cantonal

The 30 million francs loan at 3½ per cent, issued by the town of Zurich, has been considerably over-subscribed, and allocations had to be reduced. [A.T.S.]

CITY SWISS CLUB

A Card Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 17th, 1959.** 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.