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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The new Canadian Ambassador to Bern, H.E. Monsieur Herbert Frederick Brooks-Hill Feaver, has been received at the Federal Palace by Mr. Wahlen, President of the Confederation, and Mr. Max Petitpierre.

Mr. Heinrich Luebke, President of the German Federal Republic, will pay an official visit to the Federal Council in Bern this July.

The net national revenue of Switzerland in 1959 reached the record total of 29.8 milliard Swiss francs, an increase of 4.5 per cent over the 1958 figure.

The Soviet Union is courting the Swiss. Cut-rate travel behind the Iron Curtain is the idea behind the "tour-Russia" campaign recently announced in Switzerland. It is combined with an offer to Swiss industrialists and manufacturers to visit a month-long exhibition of Swiss goods in Moscow. Said the weekly paper "Zuercher Woche": "One catches mice with bacon . . . and the simple Swiss with cheap holiday travel".

Export of Swiss chocolate attained a new record figure in 1960, amounting to 9,425 metrical tons, i.e. 515 tons more than in 1959.

At the beginning of May 1961, the general direction of the Swiss Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration registered the 150,000th licence-holder for television.

There are at present in Switzerland no fewer than four million laying hens, which produce about 630 million eggs per year. This, however, is not sufficient for Switzerland's requirements, and she was obliged in 1960 to import a further 33 million eggs.

The British Chamber of Commerce for Switzerland, whose headquarters are in Basel, recently held their Annual General Meeting. The annual report issued on that occasion shows a tremendous increase in Anglo-Swiss commercial exchanges.

Cantonal

The Eastern Swiss painter and draughtsman, Charles Hug, is to present a survey of his many-faceted works at the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Gall.

The police tribunal has just convicted and fined another group of clandestine absinthe distillers in Val-de-Travers.

Bern has announced the opening of "La Rampe", a new pocket theatre.

During the past year, the Basle ports handled nearly 7 million metric tons of goods, against 5 million tons in 1959, this being about 40 per cent by volume of total Swiss foreign trade.

Zurich police are running free "noise tests" for motor vehicles during the local "Fight the Noise" campaign.

Neuchâtel will vote soon on closing times for cabarets and public dance halls. This follows a local decree allowing cabarets to stay open after midnight.

A Swiss engineer from Winterthur living in Strasburg, Mr. J. F. Buechi, inventor of the "Béton-Buechi", was honoured recently by the French government with the medal of scientific research.

Mr. Gabriel Despland, State Councillor of Vaud and Chief of Interior Affairs, announced his retirement for 30th June. At present, Mr. Despland is presiding over the organization committee for the National Exhibition of 1964.

The world renowned psychiatrist, Dr. Ludwig Binswanger, has just celebrated his 80th anniversary, at Kreuzlingen.

A 30-year-old Zurich man has just gained his Master's Ticket to become the youngest Swiss captain on the high seas. He is Jurg Johannsen, who gained this ticket in Holland in the record time of five months.

Statistics published at the end of last month have established the population of Lausanne at 126,535 people — this represents an increase of about two thousand on last year.

The problem of foreign manpower was the subject of discussion of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique delegates who recently met at Philipp-Albert Stapferhaus, Lenzburg.

Walter Kegi, of Zurich, producer of the film, "Gegen den Strom", has received the first prize of the International Film Festival for Maritime Navigation at Cremona (Italy).

Adelheid von Rohr, a 25-year-old Swiss actress, died last week near Eibelsstadt, Germany, after a car accident. Her husband, Marcel von Rohr, was seriously injured.

(Most of the above items were received from the A.T.S. News Service.)

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