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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Mr. Giovanni Enrico Bucher has been appointed Swiss Ambassador to Nigeria.

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Switzerland's newest town is the former village of Zollikon, near Zurich. Now that its population has topped the 10,000 mark, it has been officially declared a municipality.

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The Political Department will be sending Mr. Reinhold Steiner to Washington, as Scientific Counsellor to our Embassies in the United States and Canada.

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Customs men carefully counted the number of cars with foreign licence plates which crossed the Swiss border last year: 19,500,000 — an increase of 14 per cent over the previous year's total.

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Switzerland's watch industry is booming, but watch-makers are worried about future competition from Russia and Japan. Mr. Henri A. Favre, president of the Union des Fabricants d'Horlogerie de Genève et Vaud, said last week: "Business has picked up since last year. There's no unemployment and our order books are full, but it must be stated that there may be unexpected competition from Russia and Japan".

* * *

Cantonal

The International Red Cross Committee in Geneva is making plans to celebrate its centenary in 1963. On this occasion all member States are to be invited to take part in a world congress in Switzerland.

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Archaeological excavations near Marthalen (Zurich) have succeeded in discovering the traces of a Celtic city dating back to the first century B.C.

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Basel is to enlarge a Rhineland Customs post at "Three Countries Corner" because of the heavy increase in the number of passengers sailing from there to France, Germany and Holland.

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The Omega watch company will shortly open a factory in the north of Lausanne. It will employ eighty workers.

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Students of Geneva University boycotted the new University Restaurant the other week, because of a 10 cts. increase in meal prices. The boycott — "completely unacceptable" to the Rector, Professor Eric Martin — was almost complete.

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Former national councillor Josef Heinzer died in Golden (Schwyz). Mr. Heinzer, a railwayman by profession, was 75.

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A Zurich art auction raised the highest price ever paid for a canvas by Ferdinand Hodler. It was sold for 82,000 francs, the highest sale of the auction — and more than twice the sums paid for works by leading French artists.

Last year the Frutigen-Adelboden Bus Company conveyed over 200,000 passengers. Adelboden already boasts a well-appointed coach station, but proper shelter for passengers has hitherto been lacking at Frutigen. This has now been remedied. A joint effort by the bus company and the Loetschberg Railway has resulted in the erection of a covered platform shelter.

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A Lugano woman gave birth to a son in a taxi outside San Lorenzo Cathedral. Now the boy is to be christened Lorenzo.

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A new home for elderly people is soon to be built in Zurich. It will stand in the Wollishofen area and it is hoped to accommodate about sixty people.

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A new bridge, the "Kreuzacher Bruecke", has been erected in Solothurn. Striding over the Aar river it is 109 metres long and is exclusively reserved for cyclists and pedestrians.

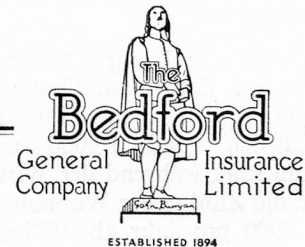
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With skeleton keys made from a prison spoon, two prisoners unlocked their cells and walked out of jail at Ulster (Zurich) to freedom — for less than 24 hours. They were arrested while attempting to hitch-hike outside Zurich.

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Neuchâtel's gastronomic fair, known under the name of "Foga", has opened its doors. Adjoining it is a special attraction: a model of the future Swiss nuclear centre which will be erected in Lucens.

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



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