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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The annual conference of Swiss Ministers accredited to foreign countries, took place in Berne under the presidency of Federal Councillor M. Petitpierre, head of the Federal Political Department.

Twenty-two Ministers, who are at present spending their holiday in Switzerland, attended the conference.

Monsieur José Lefèvre, the newly appointed Minister of the Republic of Panama, has presented his credentials to Dr. C. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation and Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Foreign Minister.

Monsieur N. Gopalswami Ayyanger, Minister of War of the Republic of India, has paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Swiss Confederation in Berne.

A German commercial mission headed by Ministerialrat, Müller-Graf, has arrived in Berne to start negotiations with Mr. Schaffner, "Delegierter für Handelsverträge".

Customs receipts in August 1952, amounted to 48.9 million francs which is 1.6 million francs more than in August 1951.

During the first eight months of the current year customs receipts totalled 401.7 million francs, or 11 million francs less than during the same period in 1951.

Cantonal

The "Auslandschweizertagung" was opened on Friday, August 29th, at the "Kunst-und Kongresshaus" in Lucerne, and afterwards was transferred to the "Bürgenstock" where meetings of the various groups and a plenary session was held.

On Sunday, August 31st, the participants met at the historical grounds of the "Rutli" where they were addressed by Dr. C. Kobelt, President of the Swiss

Confederation. (We hope to publish a report about the work done at the Conference). [A.T.S.]

Dr. h.c. Heinrich Walther has celebrated his 90th birthday at Kriens.

The "Jubilar" was from 1894-1938 a member of the Government of the canton of Lucerne, and from 1908-1943 he sat in the National Council over which he presided in 1928/29. He was a *doctor honoris causa* of the Universities of Tübingen, Freiburg i.U., and the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.

Mr. J. Wismer, for the last twelve years a member of the government of the canton of Lucerne, will vacate his post at the end of this year. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Diethelm Zellweger, President of the Board of the "Konsumverein" Zurich, has reached the age of 70. He was for some time a member of the "Grossen Stadtrat" of Zurich. In the army, he held the rank of Colonel, and at one time was in command of the south front of the Gotthard fortress. [A.T.S.]

The French Government has nominated Professor Ch. Clerc, a former Professor of French Literature at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, to be an officer of the Légion d'Honneur. [A.T.S.]

The "Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Vererbungsforschung" has nominated Dr. Alfred Ernst, Professor of the University of Zurich an Honorary Member.

Mr. W. F. Burger, land-scape painter and etcher, has celebrated his 70th birthday in Rüslikon. Born

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