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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Swiss electorate, in a referendum, rejected by roughly 421,700 votes to 328,200 a Socialist proposal for a capital levy with a view to obtaining about 800m. Swiss francs for the financing of the armament programme. The Government opposed the proposal, maintaining that existing taxation made it unnecessary to have recourse to a capital levy.

Minister Reinhard Hohl, at present Swiss Minister in Prague, has been appointed Minister in Tokio.

Minister Hohl was born in 1893 at Rheineck. After having studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Berne and Geneva — obtaining there the degree of doctor of law — he entered the Swiss Foreign Office in 1919. He has occupied various posts, amongst them, head of the Department of Legal, Financial and Traffic affairs. In 1941, he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation, and seven years later (1948) received the title of Minister and was sent to Prague.

Dr. Friedrich Wilhelm Holzapfel has presented his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the German Federal Republic to Dr. K. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation.

Customs receipts during the month of April, 1952, amounted to 56.5 million francs, which is 2.7 million francs less than in the same month of the previous year.

During the first four months of the current year, customs receipts totalled 188.7 million francs or 17.8 million francs less than in the same period of 1951.

The Post, Telegraph and Telephone administration in Switzerland has made a profit of 605.6 million francs from its activities in 1951. This is the highest figure it has ever reached. Compared with last year the profits show an increase of 31 million francs. The Postal section made a profit of 279 million francs, the Telegraph, Telephone and Radio section, 326 million francs.

Cantonal

A taxi driver, who was hailed by two young men in Zurich, was attacked near the Birmensdorfer Strasse, Zurich-Albisrieden and robbed; although badly injured he was able to shout for help, whereupon the attackers disappeared. Shortly afterwards the Police were able to arrest the two gangsters, aged 21 and 24 respectively.

Another attack on a taxi driver has been reported from Zurich; a young man, on arriving at his destination near the Scheuchzerstrasse, suddenly aimed a blow at him, the taxi driver was able to detain him until the Police arrived to arrest him. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Emil Landolt, Mayor of the town of Zurich, has paid an official visit to Israel. [A.T.S.]

The late Adam Freuler, formerly General Manager of the "Schweizerischen Treuhandgesellschaft" in Basle, has left an amount of 65,000.— francs to be divided as follows: Cantonal Hospital Glarus, 30,000.—frs.; Commune of Netstal 10,000.—frs.; "Kunstverein" Glarus, 5,000.—frs.; "Stiftung Freulerpalast" in Näfels, 5,000.—frs.; "Historischen Verein" of the canton of Glarus, 3,000.—frs. and various charitable institution of the commune of Netstal 2,000.—frs. each. [A.T.S.]

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Glarus took place in Glarus on the 4th of this month. Dr. Heinrich Heer has been re-elected as "Landammann". Dr. F. Stucki (Netstal) has been elected a member of the cantonal government. [A.T.S.]

Mademoiselle Ida Wyss, of Bienne, who died in April of this year has left 455,000.— francs to a num-

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