

News from the colony

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

DEPARTURES AT THE EMBASSY

Two of the oldest and best-known members of the Swiss Embassy are about to leave London on new assignments.

Dr. Juerg Iselin, First Collaborator of the Ambassador, has been appointed Deputy Director of the Political Division of the Political Department, and has been promoted from Plenipotentiary Minister to Ambassador.

General Consul Fritz Adams has been appointed *Chargé d'Affaires* in Wellington. This is a fine promotion because Mr. Adams will in this capacity be leading the Swiss diplomatic mission in New Zealand.



Dr. Juerg Iselin

Dr. Juerg Iselin, the son of a minister and theologian, was born in 1920 at Winterthur but his origins are in Basle. He studied in this city and completed a doctorate in law. He entered in the service of the Political Department in 1945 and was posted to New Delhi in 1945. He was recalled to the Political Department in Berne in 1953 and, in 1956, joined the Swiss observers' office at the United Nations in New York. He was transferred to Cologne in 1959 and was concerned with commercial issues as from 1961. Back in Berne in 1963, he was posted to the Integration Office of the Political and Public Economy Departments. Three years later, he was

named Head of the Integration Office by the Federal Council. He was posted to London in 1969 as number two at the Embassy. He was awarded the title of Minister in 1971.

As Deputy Head of the Political Division, Dr. Iselin will take the succession of Ambassador Gelzer. In his new capacity he will be in charge of Swiss embassies and diplomatic missions in Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand, and Latin America.

Dr. Iselin married Miss Elizabeth Heartzog in 1955. They have a daughter, Beatrice, who is 24.

Mr. Fritz Adams was born in 1919 in Vienna, the son of a Swiss abroad but also hails from Basle. After many years in private industry he joined the Political Department in 1943. In the course of his consular career he has been posted to Vienna, Berne, Stuttgart, Cairo, Dijon and Bucharest. Called back to Berne in 1964, he was named Consul in London in 1968, and promoted to the rank of General Consul in 1974.



Mr. Fritz Adams

Mr. Adams was very active in the Colony. His efficiency, kindness and wisdom were highly appreciated by the Swiss Protestant Churches and by the Swiss Benevolent Society. Mr. Adams not only took an active part in the life of the Church, but it was thanks to his efforts in channelling Embassy support that the bi-annual bazaars have been so successful during the past six years. Mr. Adams' involvement with the Swiss Benevolent Society was essential in promoting its work among straying young Swiss. Mr. Adams was also involved with the First August Committee and represented the Embassy at the Advisory Council of the *Swiss Observer*. In this capacity, he accomplished a lot of work in getting the "Special Issues" scheme off the ground both in London and at the Commission for Information of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad.

Mr. Adams married Miss Suzanne Gerber in 1955. They have three boys:

Christophe, 18, Daniel, 11, and Marc, 8.

We wish both Dr. Iselin and Mr. Adams and their families success and prosperity in this new stage of their careers.

P.M.B.

MR. GABRIEL GODET

We have the sad duty of reporting the death of *Mr. Gabriel Godet*, a former member of the Consistoire and of the Swiss Benevolent Society Council. Mr. Godet died at his home at La Neuveville, near Neuchâtel, on 13th December, at the age of 83.

A great many Swiss of all generations will remember Mr. Godet for his untiring work for the Church and the Swiss Benevolent Society. As far as the Church was concerned, his friends said of him that he was married to it. A bachelor all his life, Mr. Godet devoted his energy and means to the welfare of the Swiss Church in London and became an invaluable help to a long succession of ministers. Elected to the Consistoire in 1924, he served on that body for over fifty years and was an honorary member until he left London to retire in Switzerland some two years ago. Mr. Godet also served for many years as treasurer of the Church.

He was indeed well qualified for the job since he had had a banking career. Coming to this country in 1916, Mr. Godet worked first at the *Credit Lyonnais*, then at the *Banca Commerciale Italiana*. When this bank was compelled to employ Italian staff under the Mussolini regime, Mr. Godet found employment at the City firm of Leopold Joseph. His retirement certainly did not spell the end of an active life. Mr. Godet thereafter took care of the Evangelical Library in Marylebone and was closely involved with the Gideons Organisation, well known for supplying hotel guests all over the world with the Scriptures. Even in his Swiss retirement, Mr. Godet kept himself busy and useful by engaging in voluntary work.

Countless Swiss, many of whom have now disappeared, were helped by the visits which he carried out both under the auspices of the Swiss Church and of the Benevolent Society. He was a "man behind the scenes" leading a very frugal and perhaps solitary life. But his hidden contribution in helping our less fortunate compatriots in London must have been immense. He was until the end among the faithfuls at the Swiss YMCA, and involved in the life of several other London churches, such as the French Reformed Church and the City Temple.

Despite his unassuming life-style, he was a man of some means and of a cultured background. Among his forefathers was the famed 19th century theologian Philippe Godet. The deceased sponsored a re-edition of this theologian's work by the publishers Delachaux et Niestlé. Mr. Godet owned a large house at La Neuveville which has been bequeathed as a home for ministers and missionaries. He also left a sizeable sum to the Swiss