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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The death is reported from Zurich of Minister, Dr. Karl Egger, at the age of 68.

Minister Egger entered the Diplomatic Service of the Confederation in 1907, and was *en poste* at various Legations abroad. In 1922, he was appointed Swiss Minister in Buenos-Aires and ten years later (1932) he was transferred in the same capacity, to Madrid.

In 1939, Dr. Egger was sent as Minister to Helsinki, which post he occupied until 1946, when he retired from the service.

Monsieur José B. Pagnado Soler, Minister of the Republic of Dominica, has presented his credentials to M. von Steiger, Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation.

The newly appointed Minister has previously represented his country in Paris.

The Federal Council has agreed to the opening of a West German general-consulate in Switzerland.

An agreement concluded between Switzerland and Luxembourg abolishes visas for the travel between the two countries.

King Leopold III has addressed a letter of thanks to the President of the Swiss Confederation, in which he expresses his appreciation for the hospitality extended to him during the last five years.

Customs receipts during the month of July, 1950, amounted to 53.2 million francs, or ten million francs more than in July, 1949.

During the first seven months of the current year customs receipts totalled 303 million francs, which is an increase of 34.7 million francs over last years figures for the same period.

Cantonal

The "gyro-bus" a new Swiss contribution, to world passenger transport, has passed its first tests at Altdorf.

The principle of the bus lies in the source of kinetic

energy contained in a top-like mechanism, which revolves on its own axis.

The central part of this mechanism is an extremely heavy steel fly-wheel, which is powered by a tri-phase electric motor. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Mlle. Agnes Arnold, daughter of the former "Landammann" Arnold, who recently died at Altdorf, has left an amount of 50,000.—frs. to various charitable and church institutions. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Society "Schweizerfreunde der U.S.A. (SFUSA) in Zurich, gave a luncheon in honour of the newly appointed American Consul General, Mr. Porter C. Kuykendall. Amongst the many guests present were the following: Dr. E. Vaterlaus, President of the Government of the canton of Zurich, Dr. E. Landolt, Mayor of the town of Zurich, representatives of the "Schweiz. Zentrale für Handelsförderung", Swiss-American Society, Rotary and Lions Clubs, and the Press. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Hermann Kesser, the well-known novelist and dramatist, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in his native town of Zurich. One of his recent plays, "Talleyrand & Napoleon" met with great success. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. J. C. Gasser, from 1913-1941, a preacher in Winterthur, has celebrated his 80th birthday. He made a name for himself as the author of a number of theological and historical works. [A.T.S.]

* * *

During the month of July, 1950, 548 (July 49:461) traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Berne. 440 (July, 49:367) people were injured, of which 13 (July, 49:9) succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

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