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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Julien Rossat, to the post of Swiss Minister in Ankara, in succession to Minister Gorgé, who has been transferred to Moscow.

Minister Rossat was born in Lausanne in 1901, and is a citizen of Granges-Marnand (Ct. Vaud). In 1923, he entered into the service of the Federal Military Department and shortly afterwards was transferred to the Federal Finance and Customs Department. In 1929, M. Rossat was attached to the Swiss Foreign Office, and a year later was posted to the Swiss Consulate at Mulhausen followed by an appointment at the Swiss Consulate in Marseille. In 1937, he was transferred to Tokio with the rank of 2nd Secretary of Legation, three years later (1940) he returned to the Foreign Office in Berne, after having been promoted to 1st Secretary of Legation. In 1942, he received an appointment as Chargé d'Affaires in Colombia and in 1944 he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. He returned to the Foreign Office in Berne in 1947, where he occupied an important office.

Major Pierre Musy, aged 41, of Albeuve and Fribourg, a member of the General Staff, has been appointed Military and Air Attaché at the Swiss Legation in Iran.

During December, 1950, the Swiss Federal Railways have carried 16.08 million passengers or 1.33 million more than in December, 1949. The receipts are given as 19.04 million francs, which is 1.58 million francs more than during the same period in 1949.

Goods traffic shows an increase of 320,000 tons and is returned as 1.71 million tons, receipts reached the figure of 28.69 million francs (Dec. 1949: 24.88 million francs).

Cantonal

Dr. Gotthard Egli, President of the States Council (Ständerat) and a member of the government of the canton of Lucerne, received serious injuries on being run over by a motor-cyclist when crossing the road. [A.T.S.]

Professor, R. Grünhut-Dubler, a former chief engineer of the Swiss Federal Railways and Professor at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, has celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary in Lugano. [A.T.S.]

The oldest female Swiss inhabitant, Mme. Orsola Salvagni-Daranti (born in Chironico, Ct. Ticino), has died in Zug at the age of 104 and seven months. [A.T.S.]

National Councillor, Robert Bratschi, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary in Berne. Mr. Bratschi has been since 1920, General Secretary of the Swiss Railwaymen's Union, and since 1946, its President; he is a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne since 1930, over which he presided in 1941/42. He entered Parliament (National Council) in 1922 as representative of the Socialist Party. [A.T.S.]

The late Mlle. Jäggi, of Uetendorf, a school teacher, has left an amount of 54,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions in the canton of Berne. [A.T.S.]

During the month of January, 1951, 240 traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Berne. Seven persons have been killed and 117 injured. [A.T.S.]

Colonel Ernesto Pedotti, "Forstingenieur" was accidentally killed when cleaning his army revolver, he was 52 years of age. [A.T.S.]

National Councillor, René Mauroux (Socialist) has resigned from the National Council in which he sat as a representative of the canton of Fribourg. He is succeeded by M. Charles Strebel (Fribourg). [A.T.S.]

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R.A.C.

M. Moritz Ruckhäberle, actor and author of a number of plays in Swiss dialect, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Basle. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The result of the elections for the government of the canton of St. Gall, is as follows: Dr. A. Römer (Liberal); Dr. J. Riedener (Conservative); Dr. A. Gemperli (Conservative); Paul Müller (Conservative); Dr. Simon Frick (Liberal); W. Clavadetscher (Liberal) and M. Eggenberger (Socialist). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The five members of the government of the canton of Ticino have been re-elected for a new term of office. They are: Brenno Galli and Nello Celio (Liberals); Peppo Lepori and Agostino Bernasconi (Conservatives) and G. Canevascini (Socialist). [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Edmond Henry, has been appointed "Chancelier d'Etat" of the canton of Vaud. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. E. Gubler, for 43 years, reporter of the Federal Tribunal in Lausanne, and since 1900 a member of the Swiss Press Association, has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary in Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Colonel of Division Tissot, a former Commander of the 1st and 9th division respectively, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The King of Siam, who is staying at Lausanne, has sent a cheque of 1,000.—frs. to the government of the canton of Vaud for the avalanche victims. [A.T.S.]

:o:

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Abbé Joseph Bovet, composer and author of Folklore Literature, in Montreux, at the age of 78.

The deceased was born in Sâles in 1879, and entered the priesthood in 1905, as vicar of the Notre Dame church in Geneva. Three years later (1908) he was appointed Music teacher at the cantonal Teachers seminary Hauterive (Ct. Fribourg). In 1910 he was nominated Professor of Music at the "Diözesan Seminar" Fribourg, holding both posts until his retirement in 1949. In 1923, he was appointed "Domkapellmeister" of the Cathedral in Fribourg and seven

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years later (1930) he became honorary dean of the Cathedral. On the occasion of his 60th birthday anniversary he received the degree of *doctor honoris causa* from the University of Fribourg.

Dr. Eugen Curti, a prominent lawyer, in Zurich, at the age of 86.

The deceased was born in St. Gall in 1865. He studied law at the Universities of Leipzig, Munich and Berne, after which he established himself as a lawyer in Winterthur, in partnership with the former Federal Councillor, Dr. Forrer. In the year 1900, he transferred his activities to the town of Zurich, where he soon gained the reputation of one of the foremost lawyers in Switzerland. From 1913-1935, Dr. Curti held the post of President of the "Kassations" tribunal of the canton of Zurich. He was, together with his brother, a founder of the "Schweizerische Juristenzeitung" of which publication he was its Editor for a number of years. Dr. Curti was the author of several works dealing with matters of law.

Ernest Borel, President of the watch manufacturing firm of the same name, in Neuchâtel.

Tito Solari, teacher at the cantonal commercial school Bellinzona, in Bellinzona, aged 50.

August Jeltsch, Merchant, in Basle, Honorary President of the "Alliance Française des Alsaciens-Lorrains", in Basle, aged 67.

Edouard Vidoudez, from 1920-1946, Manager of the Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas in Geneva. In Geneva, at the age of 67.

Marcel Haecker, President of the International

Motorcycle Association from 1930-1947, in Geneva, aged 62.

André Cérésolle, a former Assistant Manager of the Swiss Federal Railways (District I) in Lausanne, at the age of 80.

Mme. M. Senges-Faust, from 1895-1945, in charge of the Municipal Theatre of Chur, in Chur, aged 74.

Pasteur Paul Walter, for many years Pasteur at the "Deutschschweizerischen" Church Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 78.

Carl Bucherer, President of the Board of the firm Bucherer, A.G. Lucerne (Jewellers and Watch Distributors), in Lucerne, aged 60.

Emil Beurmann, well-known portrait painter and author, in Basle, at the age of 89.

Pastor Arnold Zimmermann, from 1913-1940, preacher at the Zurich-Neumünster, and from 1939-1947, President of the Kirchenrat, in Küsnacht (Zurich), at the age of 79. The deceased was a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Zurich.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. B. Knapp, of Eggersriet (Ct. St. Gall); Mr. and Mrs. J. Näf-Blättler, of Basle; Mr. and Mrs. H. Clivio, of La Chaux-de-Fonds. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for the year 1950: Schweiz. Bankverein, Basle: 6 per cent. (1949: 6%); Schweiz. Kreditanstalt, Zurich: 6 per cent. (1949: 6%); Schweiz. Bankgesell-

schaft, Zurich: 7 per cent. (1949: 7%); Schweiz. Volksbank, Berne: 4½ per cent. (1949: 4½%); Banque d'Etat, Fribourg: 4 per cent. (1949: 4%); Banque Cantonal, Neuchâtel: 4 per cent; Crédit Foncier Suisse, Zurich: 5½ per cent. (1949: 5½%) Aargauische Hypothekenbank, Aarau: 5 per cent. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The town of Winterthur has just inaugurated the Reinhardt Foundation Museum which comprises an admirable collection of the works of Swiss and German artists from the 18th to the 20th century. It is the gift of Mr. Oscar Reinhardt, a collector who is well-known in artistic circles throughout the world.

To house this unique collection of more than 500 canvasses and drawings, the old gymnasium of Winterthur, a fine building of the classic style of the 1840's, was completely renovated with the collaboration of Mr. Reinhardt himself and the rooms were specially arranged and laid out to have a proper setting for the works exhibited there. Whole rooms are devoted to Hodler, Calame and Bocion, Liotard, Sturzenegger and Anker who is revealed as a remarkably sensitive painter. The Geneva School is also well represented by Barthélémy Menn of to-day and also by various tendencies in Swiss contemporary painting.

The Reinhardt Foundation Museum also exhibits a number of very fine works by German and Austrian painters of the 18th and 19th centuries, which are generally not well known.

All art lovers will be pleased to know that this splendid private collection, built up with the excellent taste which is associated with Mr. Oscar Reinhardt, is now available for public inspection every day.

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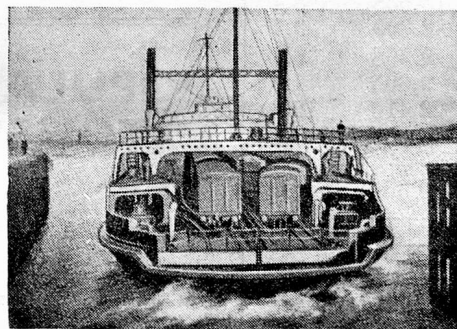
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It is understood that the Government of the Union of South Africa is seeking to raise a loan of Frs.50m. in Switzerland. The rate of interest is said to be 3½ per cent.

Last year Switzerland granted two loans to the Union. The first was a Swiss banking credit to the South African Government of Frs.36m., repayable in three years.

* * *

During January, the Swiss index of wholesale prices, based on August, 1939, equals 100, rose by as much as 3.5 per cent. to 225.6.

The marked increase is ascribed in the main to higher world market prices of raw and semi-manufactured materials.

At end-August, 1950, the index stood at 204.8.

* * *

A subsidiary of the Swiss Reinsurance Company has been formed in South Africa with the title of Swiss-South African Reinsurance Company, Ltd. It has a capital of £250,000, and its offices are at Johannesburg.

* * *

Wohnbevölkerung der Schweiz nach Kantonen 1941 und 1950.

Kantone	1941	1950	Zunahme	
			absolut	in %
Zurich	674,505	772,617	98,112	14.5
Bern	728,916	798,264	69,348	9.5
Luzern	206,608	223,409	16,801	8.1
Uri	27,302	28,569	1,267	4.6
Schwyz	66,555	71,246	4,691	7.0
Obwalden	20,340	22,075	1,735	8.5
Nidwalden	17,348	19,459	2,111	12.2
Glarus	34,771	37,674	2,903	8.3
Zug	36,645	42,268	5,625	15.4
Freiburg	152,053	157,919	5,866	3.9
Solothurn	154,944	170,325	15,381	9.9
Basel-Stadt	169,961	196,658	26,697	15.7
Basel-Land	94,459	107,393	12,934	13.7
Schaffhausen	53,772	57,448	3,676	6.8
Appenzell A.-Rh.	44,756	48,026	3,270	7.3
Appenzell I.-Rh.	13,383	13,448	65	0.5
St. Gallen	286,201	308,483	22,282	7.8
Graubünden	128,247	136,050	7,803	6.1
Aargau	270,463	300,442	29,979	11.1
Thurgau	138,122	149,360	11,238	8.1
Tessin	161,882	175,520	13,638	8.4
Waadt	343,398	376,707	33,309	9.7
Wallis	148,319	158,227	9,908	6.7
Neuenburg	117,900	127,205	9,305	7.9
Genève	174,855	197,265	22,410	12.8
Schweiz	4,265,703	4,696,057	430,354	10.1

* * *

The success of the 34th Basle Fair in 1950 is proved by the replies given by exhibitors to enquiries put to them by the Fair management. For instance, the enquiry concerning business entered into or transacted in the home market has produced a proportion of positive replies 11% greater than in 1949. The preparations for the 35th Fair which will take place in Basle from the 7th to the 17th April, 1951, are going

well ahead. Even at the beginning of September it was manifest that the demand for floor space would exceed that of last year by 5,700 square metres.

—oO—

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

“Semaine Suisse” (Service de Presse).

La Fondation “Pro Helvetia” a fait don de 250 livres d'auteurs suisses à l'Institut espagnol de recherches économiques. En remerciant, M. Ibañez Martin, ministre de l'instruction, a relevé le rôle important de la Suisse dans le domaine culturel et comme asile de paix.

* * *

M. Ernest Scheidegger, de Zurich et Paris, a obtenu un premier prix au concours international d'affiches de l'exposition d'arts appliqués et d'architecture de Milan. — Une exposition d'affiches suisses a été ouverte à New-York.

* * *

Le chimiste Dr. Eric C. Kunz, originaire de Zurich, a reçu la médaille du mérite attribuée par la société américaine des chimistes cosméticiens, pour les services éminents rendus à l'industrie américaine des cosmétiques.

* * *

Le compositeur Arthur Honegger a été élu président de l'Alliance internationale des sociétés d'auteurs et compositeurs.

* * *

Le roi Farouk a nommé Officier de l'Ordre du Nil M. Jacques-René Fiechter, fondateur et directeur du “Journal Suisse d'Egypte et du Proche Orient” et ancien professeur à la Faculté de philosophie de l'Université Farouk, à Alexandrie.

* * *

La ville de Gerardmer, dans les Vosges, a accordé la bourgeoisie d'honneur à Mme Jane Béguin, de Neuchâtel, en reconnaissance des services rendus comme bienfaitrice de la population atteinte par la guerre. La bénéficiaire de cette distinction a en outre reçu la médaille d'or de la Croix Rouge française.

* * *

La “Société d'études du 17ème siècle” à Paris, a nommé membre correspondant un écrivain romand, M. Paul André.

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