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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The various Departments in the Swiss Government have been assigned as follows:

Political Department:	
M. Petitpierre,	Deputy: Ph. Etter,
Home Affairs:	
Ph. Etter,	Deputy: M. Weber,
Justice and Police:	
M. Feldmann,	Deputy: J. Escher,
Military:	
K. Kobelt,	Deputy: M. Feldmann,
Finance and Customs:	
M. Weber,	Deputy: M. Petitpierre,
Public Economy:	
M. Rubattel,	Deputy: K. Kobelt,
Post and Railways:	
J. Escher,	Deputy: M. Rubattel.

On New Year's Day, Monsieur K. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation, received at the Federal Palais in Berne, the representatives of the cantonal and municipal authorities of Berne, and members of the Diplomatic Corps, representing fifty accredited missions.

The Federal Council has decided to open a Legation in Djakarta (Indonesia), and has appointed Monsieur René Naville, Counsellor of Legation, as Chargé d'Affaires.

Monsieur Naville was born in 1905 in Cologny (Geneva). He studied law at the Universities of Geneva, Basle, London and Berlin. He entered the diplomatic service in 1931, and two years later he was sent to Paris as Attaché and later on was promoted to the rank of Secretary of Legation. From 1941-1945 he was in charge of the Swiss Consulate in Paris. In 1945, M. Naville was made a Counsellor of Legation and sent to Venezuela as Chargé d'Affaires, where he remained until his return to Berne in 1949.

The South African Minister of Finance, Mr. N. C. Havenga, whilst passing through Switzerland, paid a courtesy visit to Dr. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation. A dinner, offered by the Federal Council, was given at the "Wattenwyl House" in honour of the distinguished guest.

Counsellor of Legation, Dr. Egbert von Graffenried, has been appointed 2nd deputy to the Chief for "Politische Angelegenheiten" at the Federal Political Department in Berne. (Dr. von Graffenried was, for a number of years at the Swiss Legation in London, first as Commercial Attaché and later on as 1st Counsellor of Legation.)

Major Hans Raeber (born 1909 in Lucerne), a member of the Instructors Corps (Artillery), has been appointed Military and Air Attaché to the Swiss Legations in Stockholm, Oslo and Copenhagen with seat at Stockholm, in succession to Colonel of division Probst.

Mr. Albert Jakob Schlatter (born 1891 in Zurich), has been appointed "Eidg. Oberforstinspektor" in succession to the late Dr. Emil Hess.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 17.03 million passengers in November 1951, 1.41 million more than in November, 1950. The receipts are returned as 19.14 million francs (Nov. 1950: 17.56 million francs).

Goods traffic has increased by 236,000 tons, reaching a total of two million tons carried; the receipts of which are given as 34.54 million francs, which is 3.48 million francs more than in November, 1950.

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