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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Charles Humbert, at present Chargé d'Affaires in Chile, to the post of Swiss Minister in Czecho-Slovakia, in succession to Minister Hohl who has been recently transferred to Japan.

The newly appointed Minister was born in Berne in 1901 and is a citizen of Le Locle and Berne. He studied law at the Universities of Heidelberg, Vienna and Berne.

Dr. Charles Humbert entered the Diplomatic Service in 1928, and acted previously as Consular Attaché at Milan, La Paz, Caracas (Santiago de Chile, Buenos Aires, Leipzig and Paris. In 1943, he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation, and three years later (1946) was transferred to Chile as Chargé d'Affaires.

Dr. Jean Decroux has been nominated Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Republic of Hungary, in succession to Minister Grässli who has been transferred to India.

Minister Decroux was born in 1903 in Bussigny sur Morges, and is a citizen of Bulle. He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1927, and held successive Consular appointments in Mannheim, Riga, Nantes and Oslo. In 1940, he was promoted to the rank of Secretary of Legation and three years later (1943) whilst at Vichy, to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. He returned to Berne in 1944, and the following year acted as Chargé d'Affaires in Oslo. Recently, he held an important post at the Foreign Office in Berne.

The Indian Government has raised their Berne Legation to the rank of Embassy. Minister Yezdesard Dinshaw Gundevia has presented his credentials as Ambassador to the President of the Swiss Confederation.

The Federal Council has delegated Federal-Councillor Escher, Head of the Post and Railway

Department, to the Conference of Ministers of Transport which will take place at Brussels next month.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 18.44 million passengers during the month of July 1953, or 265,000 more than in July 1952. Receipts: 35.86 million francs. (July, 1952: 35.32 million francs.)

Goods traffic increased by 10,000 tons and is returned as 1.75 million tons carried. Receipts: 33.95 million francs. (July, 1952: 33.18 million francs.)

Customs duties collected during the month of August 1953 amounted to 54.8 million francs, or 4.4 million francs more than in August, 1952.

During the first eight months of the current year the receipts amounted to 302.1 million francs which exceeds last year's figures for the same period by 13.6 million francs.

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