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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

It was officially announced in Berne that Colonel Marcel Mercier, an attaché in the French Embassy, is no longer a member of the staff and has left Switzerland.

Colonel Mercier joined the embassy in Berne in June, 1952. He is an intelligence officer of wide experience and his work in that capacity was far flung, the activities of both Continental Communists and North African insurgents coming under his survey. He was a close friend of M. Dubois, the former Attorney-General, who committed suicide after the first reports of the espionage affair were published. M. Dubois, a warm admirer of France, did not disguise where his sympathies lay at the time of the Suez crisis.

The Swiss Government has urged all householders to keep a permanent reserve of two months' food supply, to lessen the dangers of panic buying in times of emergency.

The Federal Council intends to ask Parliament for a further credit of 7 million francs for aiding Hungarian refugees, and refugees from other countries.

Switzerland has so far taken 11,827 Hungarian nationals, and it is intended to offer asylum to another 500 refugees from Yugoslavia.

Mr. J. Landis, for the last eleven years Chief of the Agricultural section at the Federal Economic Department, has tendered his resignation for reasons of health. Mr. Landis has for nearly 40 years rendered conspicuous services to the Confederation.

The Federal Chambers (National and States Council) started their summer session on Monday, June 3rd, for the duration of 3½ weeks.

General Hayashi, chief of the General Staff of the Japanese army, has paid a courtesy visit to

Monsieur Chaudet, head of the Federal Military Department in Berne.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 20.7 million passengers in April 1957, or 3.4 million more than during the same month in 1956. Receipts: 29.8 million frs. (April: 24.7 million frs.)

Goods traffic is returned as 2.11 million tons, which exceeds last year's figures by 160,000 tons. Receipts: 38.8 million frs. (April 1956: 37.5 million frs.)

Cantonal

The town of Zurich numbered at the end of April 1957, 425,952 inhabitants. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Silvan Nussbaumer of Oberaegeri (Conservative) has been elected a member of the Government of the canton of Zug. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Henri Huber (Moutier) has been elected President of the Government of the canton of Berne. [A.T.S.]

The Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg has held a solemn session to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the foundation of the town of Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Adolf Kellerhals of Olten (Christian Socialist) has been elected President of the Tribunal of the district Olten-Goesgen with 4,500 votes; his opponent Dr. Gasto Kupper (Independent) received 2,700 votes. [A.T.S.]

CITY SWISS CLUB

A Card Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 2nd 1957. As no circulars will be sent out for this meeting will members kindly note the date and advise the Dorchester Hotel of their intention to be present by the day previous to the Meeting. (This can be done by telephoning Miss Martin at the Dorchester Hotel. Telephone: MAYfair 8888).

Th. von SPEYR,
Hon. Secretary.