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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal-Council has appointed Dr. Jaques Albert Cuttat to the post of Swiss Minister to the republics of Columbia and Ecuador, with seat in Bogotà.

The new Minister was born in Delsberg in 1909, and studied law at the Universities of Basle, Berne and Paris. In 1935, he entered into the service of the Federal Political Department (Foreign Office) in Berne; three years later (1938) he was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Buenos Aires, returning to Berne in 1946, he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

The Federal Council has appointed Counsellor of Legation, Dr. Ernst Schlatter to the post of *Chargé d'Affaires* in Havana (Cuba). Until recently the Swiss Minister in Washington was accredited to the Government of Cuba; by the present nomination, Switzerland will have an independent Legation.

Monsieur Schlatter was born in 1905 and hails from Solothurn where he received his schooling. He studied law at the Universities of Berne and Berlin and entered in 1933 into the service of the Political Department (Foreign Office).

In 1934, he was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Washington and four years later (1938) was sent to our Legation in Brussels. He returned to Berne in 1940. In 1943, he acted as an "observer" in Algiers, Monsieur Schlatter was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation in 1944, and in 1946 he was appointed *Chargé d'Affaires* to the republics of Columbia and Ecuador.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 15.95 million passengers during the month of June, 1951, or 1 million more than in June, 1950. The receipts from passenger service have increased by 1.38 million francs and are returned as 22.97 million francs.

Goods traffic has increased by 281,000 tons and is given as 1.83 million tons, the receipts reached the sum of 31.80 million francs (June, 1950: 27.34 million francs).

Dr. August Rebsamen (Winterthur) at present a Secretary at the Swiss Legation Bonn/Köln, has been promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

M. Mohamed Ali Homoyoundja, the newly appointed Iranian Minister, has presented his credentials to Federal-Councillors Etter and Escher at the Federal Palais in Berne. M. Homoyoundja has been since 1947 Iranian Minister in Ankara.

Cantonal

An anonymous donor has left the amount of 10,000.—Frs. to the church community of Horgen, to be used towards the building of a Parish Hall. [A.T.S.]

The government of the canton of Zurich has elected the following to the posts of Professors at the University of Zurich: Dr. theol. Hans Wildberger of Neunkirch (Ct. Schaffhausen) at present pastor in Lucerne and Prof. Dr. Hansjörg Blösch, Professor of aerology at the University of Berne. [A.T.S.]

The late Max Jungi, of Uzwil (Ct. St. Gall), a former member of the "Kantonsrat" has left legacies amounting to 12,500.—frs., to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

A piper HB-OGS aeroplane crashed near the aerodrome at Davos. The pilot, Heinz Ogg, who was chief pilot at the Davos aerodrome, and his passenger Walter Bögli, were killed. The machine was completely destroyed. [A.T.S.]

The late Jakob Bachmann, a former beadle of the commune of Uesslingen, has left an amount of Frs. 29,300.— to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

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The British Consulate in Lugano has been closed and will be in future attached to the British Consulate General in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

States-Councillor G. Despland, a member of the government of the canton of Vaud, has been elected President of the Organisation Committee for the next Federal Shooting competition which will take place at Lausanne in 1952. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Eugène Urech, at present surgeon-in-chief at the hospital in Saint-Loup, has been appointed Professor of surgery at the University of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

Army

Colonel Hans Rieser, Military and Air Attaché at the Swiss Legation in London, has also been appointed to the Swiss Legation in Brussels in the same capacity. [A.T.S.]

oOo

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Professor Henri Badoux in Zurich, aged 80. The deceased was born in Cremin (Ct. Vaud). He was since 1915, Professor for "Forstwesen" at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, and from 1925-1941, Director of the "Eidg. Zentralstelle für das forstliche Versuchswesen".

Professor Dr. Albert Volkart, from 1925-1943, Professor at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zurich at the age of 78.

Dr. Robert Eberle-Mader, a lawyer, in St. Gall, aged 84.

Henri Schreiber, from 1920-1924, Swiss Minister to the three Scandinavian capitals, in Saint Blaise, at the age of 81.

Professor Heinrich Gugler, from 1922-1943, Professor at the Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zurich, aged 78. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following anniversaries are reported from Switzerland:—

Federal-Councillor Karl Kobelt (60). He was born on the 1st of August, 1891, at Marbach (Ct. St. Gall), and was educated in the town of St. Gall. He studied engineering at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich where he obtained his diploma as a "Bauingenieur".

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From 1919-1933, he was chief of section of the Federal Department for "Wasserwirtschaft" in Berne. In 1933, Mr. Kobelt was elected a member of the government of the canton of St. Gall, and in 1939, he entered Parliament (National-Council).

In the army he was in command of the infantry regiment 31, and later, on promotion to the rank of Colonel, he occupied the post of chief-of-staff of the 4th army-corps. In 1940, he entered the Federal Government, in succession to Federal-Councillor Baumann, as chief of the Military Department.

Federal-Councillor Kobelt is a member of the Liberal Party, and was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1946.

Professor Arnold von Salis (70), Professor of archaeology at the University of Zurich. At the early age of 30 he was appointed a Professor at the University of Rostock, and later on at the Universities of Münster i.W. and Heidelberg. He received his appointment at the Zurich University in 1940.

Ernst Hodel (70), a well-known landscape and animal painter of Lucerne.

Othmar Schoeck (65 on Sept. 1st), a distinguished composer. He was born in Brunnen, the son of a painter, and entered in 1915 the "Konservatorium" in Zurich, where he studied under Attenhofer, Freund, Hegar and Kempfer. From 1907-1908 he was a pupil of Reger in Leipzig. On his return to Switzerland he acted as a conductor and pianist.

The number of his compositions are large and he is enjoying a great reputation in the musical world both

at home and abroad. The University of Zurich honoured him in 1928, with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Dr. med. Em. Veillon (80) formerly physician-in-chief of the "Diakonissen" hospital in Riehen.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The following traffic accidents have occurred in Switzerland during June, 1951: *Ct. Zurich*: 884, (June, 1950: 778), six persons killed and 415 injured. *Ct. Grisons*: from January-July, 1951, 356, seven persons killed and 157 injured; *Ct. Thurgau*: July, 1951, 91, one person killed and 87 injured; *Ct. Berne*: 525, 21 persons killed and 422 injured; *Ct. Fribourg*: 125, 43 persons injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. Chr. Nusser-Schelling of Zurich; Mr. and Mrs. Joh. Diggelmann-Spörri of Gstalden-Hinwil; Mr. and Mrs. E. Günthard-Furrer of Nesslau (Ct. St. Gall); Mr. and Mrs. H. Hauser-Huber of Thalwil; Mr. and Mrs. G. Rutz-Monzi, of Herisau. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following accidents in Swiss mountains have been reported:—

Emil Neuhaus (aged 18) of Pfaffeien was killed when ascending the Gantrisch.

Dr. Hugo Ledermann, a teacher at the "Bezirksschule" Solothurn was severely injured whilst climbing the Bietschhorn, he was taken to the hospital in Visp.

René Schüpbach, of Minusio lost his life on an excursion to the Monte di Lego.

Mlle. Mathilde Duruz, of Monthey (aged 25) lost her life when ascending the Diableret, her companion, Paul Wacker, commercial traveller, of Zurich, was seriously injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Swiss Federal Office of Electric Economy recently published interesting data dealing with the production and consumption of electrical energy in Switzerland. According to this report, the annual production during the period October, 1949 to September, 1950, amounted to 10,479 million kWh (including energy supplied by thermal power stations) as compared with 9,745 million kWh produced during the previous year. In 1949-50 electricity supply companies generated 79.2 per cent. of the total, the rest being produced by the railways and industrial companies. Swiss power stations exported some 140 million kWh but about 258 million kWh were imported from abroad. By October 1st, 1950, numerous power stations were either under construction or being enlarged. When the extensive constructional work now in progress is completed, which is expected to be by the winter of 1955-56, the country will be in a very satisfactory position, and even if weather conditions are extremely unfavourable it is expected that all demands for electricity will be met.

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Swiss dog lovers have condemned the dropping of dogs by parachute. It is brigandage, they say.

* * *

Extensions costing over £90,000 have been made to the tuberculosis research station at Davos.

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