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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has nominated Mr. Ernst Theiler, to the post of Swiss Council in New Orleans, in succession to Mr. Stefano Luisoni.

Mr. Theiler was born at Olten in 1902, and is a citizen of Hitzkirch (Ct. Lucerne). He entered into the service of the Political Department in 1933, and was sent the same year to the Consulate General in New York. In 1941, he received the title of Vice-Consul, and in 1946, he was promoted to Consul and sent to New Zealand. Three years later (1949) Mr. Theiler was transferred to the Consulate in Leopoldville.

Monsieur Mégarbané, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of Syria, has presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation.

Dr. Ernst Wyss, has been elected Director of the Federal Tax Administration, in succession to Director Paul Amstutz, who relinquished his post on reaching retiring age.

Dr. Wyss was born in 1893, and hails from Mirchel (Ct. Berne). On the completion of his University studies he practised for some time as a lawyer. He entered into the service of the Federal Tax Administration in 1918, subsequently held various important posts, until 1939, when he was nominated Vice-Director of the administration.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried in the month of November, 1952, 15.96 million passengers or 234,000 less than in November 1951.

Relation between East Germany and Switzerland came to an abrupt end when the Swiss Delegation in Berlin had to evacuate the buildings in East Berlin (Friedrichstrasse) from where it had maintained semi-

official diplomatic and trade contacts with the Communists.

Last year negotiations for trade relations between the two countries, and also for full diplomatic recognition by Switzerland broke down.

The Swiss Government has undertaken the representation of Irish interests in Persia, with the agreement of the Persian authorities.

A convention with Switzerland and this country on social insurance was signed at Berne. The convention deals with benefits and pensions for old-age, widowhood, orphanhood, and industrial injuries. It provides, among other things, that a national of either country who has qualified for a pension or benefit in one of the two countries should receive this pension or benefit while he is resident in the other country.

Cantonal

Mr. Jos. Ulrich, "Landschreiber" of Küssnacht a.R. (Ct. Schwyz), enters the National Council, owing to the death of National Councillor Knobel. He belongs to the Conservative Party. [A.T.S.]

The paper "Neue Winterthurer Tagblatt" has celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation, on which occasion a special edition, numbering 28 pages, was issued. [A.T.S.]

The Board of the "Schweiz. Bankgesellschaft" Zurich has nominated Dr. A. Jann, to the post of General Manager. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the 600th anniversary festival of the entry of the canton of Glarus into the Confederation close with a deficit of 71,755.— frs. [A.T.S.]

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