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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The following foreign diplomats have presented their credentials to Monsieur Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne: Monsieur Li Ching-Chuan, Ambassador of the Chinese Republic, Monsieur José Luiz Archer, Ambassador of the Portuguese Republic, Monsieur Mokhtar Hadj Nassar, Chargé d'Affaires of the Kingdom of Morocco, Monsieur S. A. Baig, Ambassador of the Pakistan Republic, Monsieur Aladar Tamas, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Hungarian Republic, and Monsieur Henrique Ganteaume de Tovar, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Venezulean Republic.

* * *

Mr. Jean Studer has been appointed to the post of Swiss Consul in Strasbourg, and Mr. E. Anderegg to the post of Honorary Swiss Consul in Recife (Pernambuco). Mr. Anderegg is the Head of the firm Ernesto Anderegg in Recife.

* * *

Federal Councillor G. Lepori, Head of the Federal Post and Railway Department, who is in hospital, has, owing to overwork, been ordered three months' rest. During his absence Federal Councillor F. T. Wahlen will deputise for him.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of June 1959 amounted to 88.8 million francs. Of this amount the Confederation receives 62.5 million francs, or 3.3 million francs more than in June 1958.

Receipts for the Confederation during the first six months of the year total 345.1 million francs or 7 million francs less than during the same period in 1958.

* * *

The Swiss Legation in Portugal has been raised to the status of an Embassy, and Monsieur Franco Brenni, formerly Minister Plenipotentiary, has been nominated Ambassador.

* * *

The Federal Council has raised the Swiss Consulates in San José (Costa Rica), Ciudad Trujillo

(Dominican Republic), Port-au-Prince (Haiti), Tegucigalpa (Honduras), Managua (Nicaragua), Panama (Panama), and San Salvador (Salvador) to the status of Consulate-General.

The Honorary Consuls in Ciudad Trujillo (Fritz Schäd), Port-au-Prince (Gustav Gilg), Panama (Robert Eindguer), and San Salvador (Hermann Schlageter) have been raised to the rank of Honorary Consul-General.

Mr. Paul Weiss, Honorary Swiss Consul in Tegucigalpa, has resigned for health reasons; he is succeeded by Mr. Henry Schmid. The new Honorary Consul-General was born in 1892 at Bubikon (Zurich); he has been resident in Honduras since 1930, representing a number of Swiss firms.

Mr. Paul Dambach has been appointed Honorary Consul-General in Managua. He was born in 1889 at Neuchâtel, and has been established as an industrialist in Nicaragua for the last thirty years.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 17.9 million passengers during the month of June 1959, or 700,000 more than in June 1958. Receipts: 29.7 million francs (June 1958: 28.6 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.18 million tons, which is 90,000 tons more than during the same period in 1958. Receipts: 42.4 million francs.

* * *

Cantonal

Dr. med. Richard Schindler has been appointed chief surgeon of the "Krankenhaus" Schwyz, in succession to Dr. Kaelin, who on reaching retirement age has vacate his post. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Paul Gysler, since 1935 representing the "Bauern, Gewerbe-und Bürgerpartei" of the canton of Zurich in the National Council will not stand as a candidate again at the forthcoming parliamentary elections. Dr. Gysler, who presided over the National Council in 1934/44, is retiring for health reasons.

[A.T.S.].

* * *

A serious explosion occurred at the premises of the firm Hamberger, manufacturers of fireworks at Oberried (Ct. Berne), causing the death of thirteen persons. A number of the work-hands received injuries. [A.T.S.]

On descending from the Espaltenhorn nr. Isenfluh, two eighteen-year-old mechanics lost their lives. They were Walter Urfer and Fritz Michel, both of Boenigen (Ct. Berne). [A.T.S.]

* * *

Goods exceeding 10,000.—francs in value were stolen from an antique dealer's establishment in Berne. [A.T.S.]