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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The traditional conference of the heads of Swiss diplomatic Envoys abroad, took place in Berne under the presidency of M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister.

* * *

The Indian Finance Minister, Mr. Morarji R. Desai — on his journey to London and the U.S.A. — was the guest of the Federal Council. He was received at the Palais Fédéral in Berne by Federal Councillors Petitpierre and Streuli. A dinner in his honour was given by the Federal Council at the "Wattenwyl Haus".

* * *

Monsieur Ignacio Portocarrero Lacayo, has presented his credentials to Monsieur Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Nicaragua.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of August 1959 amounted to 85.2 million francs. Of this amount the Confederation receives 54 million francs, or 2.3 million francs less than in August 1958.

Receipts for the Confederation during the first eight months of the year total 669.9 million francs or 0.7 million francs more than during the same period in 1958.

* * *

The following National Councillors have intimated that they will not contest their seats at the next Parliamentary elections (24th to 25th October): Jean Gressot, "Regierungsstatthalter des Amtes Pruntrut", Ernst Josi (Radical) of St. Imier, Carl Beck of Sursee, and Giulio Gugliemetti (Liberal) of Mendrisio.

* * *

Cantonal

The firm "Messerfabrik Karl Elsener" of Ibach (Ct. Schwyz), on the occasion of its 75th jubilee has made a donation of 500,000 — francs to its pension fund.

[A.T.S.]

Dr. Werner Kaempfen has been appointed Director of the "Schweizerischen Verkehrszentrale" Zurich, in succession to Mr. Siegfried Bittel, who has held this post for 26 years.

Dr. Kaempfen was born in 1914, and hails from Brigue. After studying law at the University of Berne where he obtained his doctorate, he practised for some time as a lawyer. He also published a number of novels and biographies. From 1939 to 1949, Dr. Kaempfen was connected with the "Schweizerischen Depeschagentur" Berne. In 1954, after having been active as a journalist, he was elected Director of the "Verkehrsverein" Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

On 7th September 1959 the commune of Wetzikon (Ct. Zurich) numbered 10,000 inhabitants, and is, therefore, now considered to be a town. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A shop window of the jewellery establishment of Bucherer in the Bahnhofstrasse Zurich was smashed. Goods valued at 35,000. — francs were stolen.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The final accounts of the "Saffa" exhibition, which was held last year in Zurich, show a net profit of 2,065,415 — francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Frau Mathilde Koenig of Zurich has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Hans Wüthrich of Worblaufen (Ct. Berne), with Mr. Hanspeter Müller, a photographer of Wengen as a passenger, left the "Jungfraujoch" in a "Super Cup" machine. Soon after being airborne the machine crashed. The well-known glacier pilot Geiger was summoned from Sion, and managed to extricate the

Xmas Greetings

Following former years' practice we propose to publish again in our December issue a collective greeting.

The high costs of Xmas cards, should induce many of our subscribers to make use of this facility to extend to their friends the compliments of the season.

Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Friday, November 20th, 1959, together with remittance for 10/-.