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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Mario Fumasoli, at present Swiss Minister in Mexico, to the post of Swiss Minister to the Argentine Republic, in succession to Minister Fer.

Minister Fumasoli, was born in 1901 at Corzonesco (Ct. Ticino). He studied law at the University of Fribourg and at various Universities in Germany. In the year 1925, he entered into the Diplomatic Service and a year later (1926) he was transferred to Istanbul as Attaché of Legation, during his stay at Istanbul he was promoted to Secretary of Legation. Other posts held by Minister Fumasoli were at The Hague, Buenos-Aires and Rome.

In 1939, he was promoted to Counsellor of Legation and sent to the Swiss Legation in Madrid. In 1948, Monsieur Fumasoli, was nominated Swiss Minister in Mexico.

Monsieur Patrick Scrivener, British Minister in Berne, has presented his credentials to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation.

Minister Scrivener, was until recently Deputy Commissioner-General for the United Kingdom in South-East Asia. He was formerly Minister in Damascus. Earlier he served in Warsaw, Cairo, Budapest, Addis-Ababa, Ankara, Rome and Lisbon.

Official figures published of the amount of sterling balances held by Switzerland at the end of October last year are of special importance owing to the fact that the fate of these balances will be discussed at the present Anglo-Swiss talks.

Balances held at that time amounted to Frs.135.8 millions, compared with Frs. 139.4 millions at the end of September, and with Frs.261.3 millions at the end of August.

The sharp decline during September is attributable to the devaluation of the pound, and to the demand for sterling following devaluation.

No official explanation is available for the fall in October, but there, too, the drop may have been caused by demands for sterling on a more moderate scale.

Czechoslovakia and Switzerland have completed a new five-year trade and payments pact and a compensation agreement covering nationalised Swiss property.

Mr. W. M. Warnock, who has been appointed Irish Minister to Switzerland, is at present chargé d'affaires at Stockholm, having held a similar appointment in Berlin from 1939 to 1943.

Cantonal

The late Colonel, Dr. Franz Rickenbacher, formerly State Prosecutor of Goldau (Ct. Schwyz), has left an amount of 80,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

The late Ernst Frey, head of a screw manufacturing firm in Butikon (Ct. Zurich), made bequests to various charitable institutions amounting to 150,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

A motor-car carrying four Ice-Hockey players on the way from Glarus to Chur, to attend a Match, left the road in a thick fog on the Kerenzerberg and fell twenty metres into a ravine. One of the passengers, the 29 years old Christian Linder from Glarus, was killed, whilst the remaining three, received injuries and had to be taken to hospital in Wallenstadt. [A.T.S.]

Mademoiselle Julie Barbezat, has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary in Lattringen (Ct. Berne). [A.T.S.]

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