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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The traditional Dinner offered by the Swiss Government to the Diplomatic Corps has taken place in Berne. This year, for the first time three Ladies took part, namely the American Ambassador, Miss Willis, Miss Armentorp of the Danish Legation, and Miss Lefèvre of the Panamanian Legation.

Also present were the Directors of the International Buro's, the members of the Federal Council *in corpore*, the Federal Chancellor, representatives of the Federal Supreme Court, and the canton and municipality of Berne.

Monsieur Ahmed Savoit, Turkish Ambassador has presented his credentials to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation.

The newly accredited Ambassador was previously *en poste* in the same capacity in Paris, Athens and Berlin.

During the month of December, 1954, the Swiss Federal Railways carried 16.29 million passengers, or 66,000 less than during the same period in 1953. Receipts: 23.19 million francs. (December, 1953: 23.30 million francs.)

Goods traffic is returned as 1.91 million tons, or 329,000 tons more than in December, 1953. Receipts: 34.96 million francs. (December, 1953: 31.03 million francs.)

The Federal Council has nominated M. André Dominicé, to the post of *Chef du Protocole*, in succession to M. Robert Maurice, who has recently been appointed Swiss Minister in Brazil, with promotion to the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

M. Dominicé was born in 1911 in Geneva, and studied law at the Universities of Geneva, Paris and Vienna. On the conclusion of his studies he established himself as a lawyer in Geneva. In 1941, he

entered into the service of the Federal Political Department and was transferred to London, where he joined the "Special Division".

After two years (1943) he vacated his appointment and returned to Switzerland. On March 18th, 1946, he again entered into the service of the Swiss Foreign Office, with the rank of 2nd Secretary of Legation. In this capacity he was attached to the Commercial Section, where he remained for two years.

In 1951, M. Dominicé was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Buenos-Aires as Commercial Attaché.

### Cantonal

A fire which broke out at the "Gummiwerke Huber, A.G." in Pfäffikon (Ct. Zurich) caused damage believed to exceed 100,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The population of the town of Fribourg on January 31st, 1955, numbered 30,000. [A.T.S.]

On December 31st, 1954, Switzerland's capital, Berne, had a population of 155,593. [A.T.S.]

The Cantonal Bank Basle has registered its 100,000th holder of a saving book. These accounts are credited with a total of over 200 million francs. [A.T.S.]

M. Charles Sollberger (Socialist) has been elected a member of the Government of the canton of Vaud with 23,063 votes. His opponent, M. Ernest Pidoux (Radical) polled 21,714 votes.

M. Sollberger is succeeding M. Paul Chaudet, who has recently entered the Federal Government. He hails from the canton of Berne, and since 1945 has

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