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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Swiss Government has published the texts of an exchange of wartime letters between President Roosevelt and M. Eduard von Steiger, then President of the Swiss Confederation, in which the Swiss emphasised their traditional policy of impartiality toward belligerent states.

Two letters, written in January and March, 1945, followed an Allied request to stop trading with Nazi Germany.

The Swiss letters did not specifically refuse to stop trade but said, "The unchangeable policy of neutrality followed by the Federal Council does not permit it to regulate its action according to its sentiments".

The Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) at the end of last year had a personnel of 1,206 (1953: 1,244).

Dr. h. c. O. Zipfel, Delegate for "Arbeitsbeschaffung-und wirtschaftliche Landesverteidigung" has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council to take effect at the end of the current year.

The Federal Council has nominated as his successor, Dr. Fritz Hummler, at present Director of the "Ateliers de constructions mécaniques de Vevey, S.A."

During the month of February, 1955, the Swiss Federal Railways have carried 16.65 million passengers, or 184,000 more than in February, 1954. Receipts: 20.73 million francs (February, 1954: 20.50 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.72 million tons, which exceeds last year's figures by 373,000 tons. Receipts: 32.15 million francs (February, 1954: 29.29 million francs).

The Italian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Egidio Reale, who is leaving his post, gave a farewell

party which was attended by 500 people. Apart from the members of the Diplomatic Corps, there were present Federal Councillors Feldmann, Etter, Streuli, and Chaudet, former Federal Councillors von Steiger, Stampfli, Pilet-Golaz, Minger, Rubattel and Weber, as well as high grade army officers, representatives of municipal and cantonal authorities, industrialists, bankers, etc.

At the end of December, 1954, the number of civil servants employed by the Confederation numbered 94,441 (1953: 93,687).

Customs receipts for the month of March, 1955, totalled 66.3 million francs, or 5 million francs more than in March, 1954.

During the first three months of the current year, 129.3 million francs were collected, 19.5 million francs more than during the same period in 1954.

### Cantonal

National-Councillor, Arnold Wagner (Stans) has tendered his resignation as a member of the Government of the canton Unterwalden, to which he had belonged since 1943. [A.T.S.]

An unregistered postal packet containing 151,000.—frs. in notes disappeared from Sihl post office, Zurich. The police were able to lay hands on the thief in the person of a clerk (21) employed at the post office, but 900.—frs. were missing. [A.T.S.]

## CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next

### MONTHLY MEETING

will take place on **Tuesday, May 17th, 1955,** at **6.30 p.m.** for **7 p.m.** at the **Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.**

The Dinner will be followed by a game of Jass, Bridge or Canasta.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. to reach him not later than Monday, May 16th, 1955.

THE COMMITTEE.