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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has announced the following transfers in the Consular Corps:

Mr. Werner Hirs to be Head of the Swiss Consulate in Cincinnati (U.S.A.), and Mr. Hermann Bähler to be Swiss Consul in Istanbul.

Consul Hirs hails from Dielsdorf (Ct. Zurich) and was born in 1895. He entered into the service of the Federal Political Department in 1917, and was subsequently attached to the Swiss Consulates in Bombay, Manchester and New York. In 1946, Mr. Hirs was nominated Swiss Consul in Istanbul.

Consul Bähler, was born in 1904 in Buchholterberg (Ct. Berne). In 1923, he entered into the service of the Federal Post and Railway Department, and in 1939 was transferred to the Swiss Federal Railway agency in London. Four years later (1943) Mr. Bähler joined the Swiss Legation where he occupied a post in the Commercial Division. In 1952, he was appointed Swiss Consul in Accra (Gold Coast).

(Both Consuls were well-known personalities in the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, and we extend to them our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for success in their new spheres of activity — Ed.)

On the occasion of the death of Albert Einstein, Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Confederation has sent a message of condolence to his son, Mr. Eduard Einstein, who resides in Zurich.

The newly appointed Italian Ambassador, Monsieur Maurizio Coppini, has presented his credentials to Monsieur M. Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation.

Monsieur Pavel Ivanovic Ershow has been appointed Russian Minister in Switzerland in place of Monsieur Molochkor, who is being "transferred to other spheres".

Cantonal

At the "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Nidwalden all the former members of the cantonal Government were re-elected. Mr. A. Wagner (Cons. Cath.), who is retiring from the Government was succeeded by Dr. A. Grani (Cons. Cath.). Distinguished visitors at the "Landsgemeinde" were Federal Councillor Feldmann, Army-Corps Commander Nager, Division Commander Wey, and the members of the Bernese Government *in corpore*. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Nidwalden for 1954, close with a *credit* balance of 87,459.—frs.

[A.T.S.]

The "Obwaldner Landsgemeinde" took place at Sarnen in the presence of M. Max Petitpierre, President of the Confederation, and the British Ambassador in Berne, Sir Lionel Lamb.

States Councillor Ludwig von Moos was elected as "Landammann", whilst Dr. G. Odermatt, the

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