

News in brief

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NEWS IN BRIEF.Military Training Turned Down.

ZURICH, December 1.

A national referendum rejected a Bill providing for military instruction for Swiss youth.

 Dr. Baumann, Head of the Federal Department for Justice and Police, speaking on the occasion of an assembly of lawyers, stressed the fact that a united and resolute people stood behind the Army. He also expressed the thanks of the whole Nation to the Army. Continuing, he said that the Swiss would bear themselves courageously and loyally in spite of tribulations, and that the Press would continue to fulfil its duty of supplying impartial and neutral information. Furthermore, it had always been the custom for Switzerland to stand on a friendly footing with her neighbours.

 The Federal Council has announced a Decree with regard to the protection of workers who have been doing military service. The Decree establishes that no worker can be dismissed during his active service period and during the seven days after his return to his job. In the same way, if notice has been given, but has not become effective by the time the soldier takes up military duties, its validity will be postponed for duration of his time of service. Exceptions can only be made if it is proved that employer has no means of offering work to his employees whatsoever.

 In view of the various rumours published recently in foreign papers about partition plans regarding Switzerland, recent comments of the Italian press are of some interest. Reviewing the speech made by Federal Councillor Celio on the occasion of the opening of an exhibition in Locarno, the Italian papers have underlined a passage in which he mentioned that all our neighbours have carefully respected the independence of the Swiss Confederation.

 The Neue Zürcher Zeitung reports from Geneva that apart from the direct road route Annecy-Geneva which is open to goods traffic, a car-service has been established between Annecy and La Roche-sur-Foron. This has been necessitated by the interruption of the railway line between Annecy and La Roche after the dynamiting of the railway bridge Laignat in Savoy. It is hoped that this bridge will be re-opened by the end of October, at least for a limited traffic of goods.

The neighbourhood of the Swiss Legation (London) has been bombed during the last week more than once; and twice a bomb has done some damage to the building. For the time being the activities of the Legation continue at Montagu Place.

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