

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1939)

**Heft:** 936

**Rubrik:** Prepaid subscription rates

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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.**

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: Clerkenwell 2321/2.

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD ST., E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 21—No. 936.

LONDON, 28th OCTOBER, 1939.

PRICE 3d.

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

The import and export figures for the month of September reflect the gravity of the present times. As compared with the month of August, imports have dropped by 51 million francs to 98 million and exports amount to only 55 million against 119 million francs.

\* \* \*

By the collision of two army planes during manoeuvres one of the pilots, Lt. Werner Reber from Wabern, lost his life.

\* \* \*

A not very delectable atmosphere prevails in the Basle Grosse Rat whose president is a conspicuous communist and inter alia editor of the notorious paper "Freiheit;" it has had several skirmishes with the local police. The socialist party to whose one-time support the president owes his exalted fauteuil has presented him with an address demanding in unmistakable terms his immediate resignation, but he remains adamant. "J'y suis et j'y reste."

\* \* \*

A semi-official association called the "Cibaria" has come into existence at Berne for the purpose of supervising and regulating in conformity with the emergency decrees the import, export and distribution of all foodstuffs. It is hoped that the difficulties created by the limitations of the available import and transport avenues can thereby be better overcome than by efforts of individual firms. All the large concerns and wholesalers in this particular trade are members of the association; the president is Mr. A. Hodler of Berne, and the vice-president Mr. M. Maire of Basle.

\* \* \*

A consultative commission to advise generally on imports and exports has been called into being by the Federal Council. The president of this large body is Minister Dr. Hans Sulzer (Winterthur) and the vice-president Dr. J. Hotz (Berne).

\* \* \*

A recent bitter press campaign is recalled by the award of the Basle appeal court which reversed the decision of a lower court sentencing the local hotel union to the payment of Frs.30,000 damages for libelling the "Hotel Plan;" the latter is now taking the case to the Federal Tribunal.

In order to meet a deficiency of lorry drivers which the army command has reported, the Federal Council has enacted a decree lowering the age limit; a driving licence can now be obtained on the completion of the 17th year.

\* \* \*

During the month of September nearly 5,000 new radio licences have been taken out; the total number has now reached 578,411.

\* \* \*

According to recent statistics the Neuchâtelois are the keenest film fans; for every thousand inhabitants 116 spend a few hours every day in the local picture houses. The proportion for most of the towns is between 60 and 100, but in our capital the films find the least favour where so far only 34 per 1,000 Bernese have found their way to the cinemas.

\* \* \*

While most of our cantonal and municipal councils are spending the tax payers money freely and exhibit little compunction in presenting adverse budgets the Solothurn Kantonsrat is considering a motion to save an annual amount of over Frs.860,000 during the next four years.

\* \* \*

The reorganisation of the Schweiz. Spar- und Kreditbank in St. Gall provides for the writing down of the share capital by 75% and at the general meeting held last week the whole of the old board consisting of nine directors was re-elected. It is stated that though the foreign investments have been written off no loss will be incurred by the creditors.

\* \* \*

Both Basle and Schaffhausen are petitioning the Federal Council with the request to circumscribe exactly the powers of the military authorities. It is argued that the sovereignty of the cantonal and civil administration is in grave danger.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

### L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi le 7 Novembre à 5.30 h. précises au Restaurant PAGANI 42, Great Portland Street, W.1.

#### ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.

Démissions.

Admissions.

Divers.

Le souper est facultatif et les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 2321/2).

Le Comité