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NEWS AT RANDOM

Though it is stated that the regular mail service between England and Switzerland is in operation again we have so far only received a few newspapers dated June 13th and 14th.

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The authorities represented in the Federal Council have met since the resignation of Bundesrat Obrecht was announced, to discuss the question of his successor.

The Radical-Democrat Parliamentary party met last Saturday in Bern and decided to propose National Councillor, Dr. Walter Stämpfli, Managing Director of the Von Roll Ironworks. After this nomination became known, the Radical-Democrat party of Bâle-Ville met and decided to withdraw their candidate — Köchlin.

The Social-Democrat party also gathered last week-end. They agreed to put forward as their candidate State Councillor Gustav Wenk, of Bâle-Ville. At the same time the meeting agreed to oppose the Federal Council's latest decree concerning the limitation of the right to hold political assemblies.

Latest report says that Dr. W. Stämpfli has been elected Federal Councillor.

The new Federal Councillor was born in Büren (Solothurn) and is in his 56th year. He started his political career as a member of the editorial staff of the Oltener Tagblatt. From 1918 to 1921 he was Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce in Solothurn. He was then offered a post with the von Roll'sche Eisenwerke in Gerlafingen. In 1931 he was elected to the National Council of which he has been a member ever since.

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The Federal Department of Justice and Police have announced that all foreigners unable to return to their own countries for political reasons must send in their names and those of their dependents, to the Federal Police for Aliens by July 31st. Those who do not comply with this regulation are liable to be expelled from the country. The following are exempted :

- Foreigners who took up residence in Switzerland before 1929 and who have lived there since.
- Foreigners who, owing to lack of travelling facilities, are unable to return of their own countries for the time being.
- Foreigners who were engaged in military service before they came to Switzerland.

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On July 15th representatives of Denmark and Switzerland signed a new trade agreement in Bern. This enables business relations to be continued. Some alterations and limitations proved, however, to be unavoidable, and all payments, etc., have in future to be conducted through the Swiss National Bank in Zurich.

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The Federal Council has decreed that all owners of carrier pigeons must register them by July 20th.

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The new Swedish Minister presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation and the Federal Councillor Etter on July 12th.

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Last Monday the Government of Canton Zurich commemorated the anniversary of the death of Gottfried Keller. A number of speeches were made, all of them underlining the significance of the poet's teaching on the subject of the education of the citizen in the service of his country.

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The Government of Canton Solothurn has decided on a programme of public works to the amount of 3,200,000 Swiss francs.

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The University of Fribourg has elected Father Professor Rohner of the Faculty for Philosophy as its Rector.

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Professor Lätt, who as we all know has done so much with regard to fostering contact between Switzerland and the Swiss Colonies abroad, spoke the other day on the Swiss radio about the problems confronting the authorities owing to the return of thousands of Swiss from abroad. He told his listeners that repatriation was still going on and that there had been a collection made recently on behalf of those who come back in the unfortunate position of having no substantial means. The whole country is endeavouring to absorb these people into industrial and agricultural activities. This is not an easy process and certain difficulties ahead will make the task no easier. Pro-