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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

During the course of the week August 21st-28th, British aircraft have flown over Swiss territory three times on their way to Northern Italy. The Federal Council met on August 27th to discuss these repeated violations of Swiss neutrality and decided to instruct M. Pilet-Golaz to make fresh representations to the British Government. M. Pilet-Golaz asked the British Minister in Berne to call upon him and requested him to draw the attention of his Government to the seriousness of the situation, pointing out that these repeated incidents constituted negations of assurances given previously to the Swiss Minister in London. M. Thurnheer has at the same time been instructed to make a new demarche to the same end.

The General Staff has made it known that during the night of 26/27th August violations occurred over a very wide area, extending from Geneva to Bellinzona. Anti-aircraft batteries opened fire in various places and some people were injured by shrapnel. The *Times* Geneva correspondent reports the incident as follows, under the date of August 27th:—

“Numerous British aircraft flew over Switzerland last night. The alarm was sounded three times, and the population went into shelters as ordered. Anti-aircraft guns were in action in the Berne district and in Thun, where the railway station was slightly damaged by falling splinters.

Commenting on this new trespass, the *Journal de Genève* says that such violations are inadmissible, as they are not the result of error. “If Great Britain intended to create difficulties for Switzerland she would not act differently.” Apprehension is expressed in some quarters here that these repeated trespasses might induce some neighbouring Power to decide to defend Swiss neutrality and to take the country under its “protection.” The semi-official paper *Der Bund* of Berne wrote: “To the indignation caused by the violation is added the painful realization that it does not seem possible to reckon on a promise.”

The Swiss radio announces that rumours that coffee, tea and soap were to be rationed in Switzerland

resulted in provision shops being practically bought out and for a time there was panic buying of these commodities.

The Ministry of Food has issued a reassuring statement in which it is pointed out that action of the kind described is unnecessary and that the hoarding of certain products like coffee is a punishable offence.

* * *

Endeavours to bring about intimate co-operation between the various political parties are being made everywhere. It is announced from St. Gall that the Liberal Democratic party has appealed to the other parties, inviting them to study ways and means which might be helpful in this direction.

* * *

100 Swiss Officers participating in an instruction course recently ascended the Great Aletschhorn (4195m.). Starting from the Jungfrauoch they descended to Oberaletsch and thence to Brig. This is the first time that the Aletschhorn has been climbed by a big military formation. (*Basler Nachrichten*, Aug 15th.)

* * *

Telephone communications between Switzerland and Norway have been resumed.

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After a rainy summer, August brought rather better weather for climbing expeditions in the Swiss Alps. Appenzell especially, was a favourite with excursionists at the beginning of this month. On one Sunday alone as many as 2,500 people travelled by funicular railway or on foot. The Hohenkasten had 1,000 visitors on the same Sunday and the Schaeffer 500. Over the week-end August 3rd and 4th, the Appenzeller railway transported 6-7,000 passengers; St. Gallen Gais Appenzell the same number, whilst

CITY SWISS CLUB.

La séance à été renvoyée
au 1^{er} octobre.