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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

A further decree issued by the Federal Council extends the ban on all editions of Dr. Rauschnig's book "Hitler Speaks"; so far the version in German alone has been affected. This decision is received with mixed feelings by the Swiss press all the more as it is due to pressure exercised by a foreign government.

* * *

By a recent decision of the Federal Court, a Swiss girl who marries a Frenchman does not lose her Swiss nationality. The case arose when a Vaudoise applied for a renewal of her papers; her commune refused the request on the ground that by her marriage to a foreigner she had forfeited Swiss citizenship which seems to be logical if it were not for a new decree which had recently been enacted by the French Government. Under this decree the foreign bride of a Frenchman must make a specific declaration that she wishes to acquire French nationality.

* * *

The Simplon and Lötschberg lines are having an exceptionally busy time. Day and night goods traffic in both directions has made it necessary to re-instate antiquated electric locomotives withdrawn from service years ago.

* * *

The price of Petrol (Benzine) has been advanced by 10% and is now 55cts. per litre.

* * *

All export of war material is subject to a special licence from the army command; the demand for Swiss anti-aircraft guns (probably for Finland) is said to have been very heavy.

* * *

About 150 fully accredited diplomats are at present residing in Berne or about four times as many as in normal times. The increase is in a large measure due to the transfer of representatives of belligerent powers whose embassies in London, Paris and Berlin are in abeyance.

* * *

Numerous Swiss having attempted to enlist as volunteers in the Finnish army, a warning has been issued by the Swiss Army Command pointing out that

service in foreign armies is prohibited and will lead to a disciplinary action.

* * *

Customs duties during January amounted to 20.4 million francs against 17.7 million in 1939.

* * *

The well-known weekly "Die Weltwoche" appearing in Zurich, is having trouble with the army command on account of the outspoken articles of some of the contributors and a pre-censorship is likely to be imposed.

* * *

Deficiencies in the accounts of the Fribourg Cantonal Hospital have led to the arrest of the cashier and book-keeper (a lady); an independent audit has brought to light defalcations to the tune of Frs.87,000.

* * *

The stained glass windows at the Münster in Berne are being removed and stored in a place of safety.

* * *

A granite statue commemorating the work of our great compatriot, Sir Arnold Theiler, was recently unveiled at Onderstepoort near Pretoria. The ceremony was attended by a large distinguished gathering and orations were delivered by General Smuts, the Prime Minister of South Africa, Col. W. R. Collins and Prof. Dr. P. I du Toit, the new director of Veterinary Research and Animal Industry. Sir Arnold died some three years ago in London and was cremated at Golders Green practically unheeded by his own compatriots.

* * *

Dr. Max Staehelin-Maeglin of Basle, an outstanding personality in Swiss economic life and President of the Swiss Bank Corporation, celebrated his sixtieth anniversary last Sunday, February 18th.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi le 5 Mars à 6.30 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