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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

The two houses of our Parliament will meet next Monday for the summer session which is expected to last for two to three weeks.

The official statement in connection with the German aircraft shot down near Dübendorf varies somewhat from the telegraphic version reproduced in last week's issue. No resistance was offered by members of the crew who surrendered to the local military guard as soon as they became aware of being on Swiss territory.

The periodical census of the population which should take place next December has been indefinitely postponed by order of the Federal Council. Apart from the considerable expense this decision is due to the technical difficulties caused by the mobilisation and the consequent dislocation of homes and families.

The sale and display of fireworks has been prohibited throughout the canton of Berne.

Four further trolleybuses at the cost of Frs.310,000 are to be put in circulation in Winterthur.

Most of the cantonal schools have resumed their normal course of studies with a few exceptions where older boys are badly needed for the cultivation of land and work on farms.

The accounts of the electricity works of the canton Thurgau for 1939 close with a surplus of nearly Frs. 630,000; the output of electric current has increased by about 10%.

Dr. Ch. D. Bourcart who was Swiss Minister in London at the beginning of this century celebrated last week his eightieth anniversary at Basle.

At the opening of the 15th congress of the International Institute for Agriculture in Rome the Swiss delegate, Prof. Laur, stated in the course of a speech that Switzerland was enjoying in a unique way the

confidence and friendship of all nations especially its neighbours. The King of Italy afterwards expressed his personal appreciation and exchanged views with Prof. Laur.

Bad visibility due to fog is said to be the cause of an aviation accident in which Lieut. Jean de Praetere from Zurich and Lieut. Arthur Zulauf from Berne lost their lives.

Frau Anna Barbara Richard-Raber, the second oldest matron in our country, died in the municipal clinic at Langnau (Emmenthal) at the age of 105.

National Councillor G. Duttweiler makes an appeal to the wives and daughters of our soldiers to practise rifle shooting. In his paper "Die Tat" he invites applications and offers to make arrangements for the necessary instruction.

A curious decision has been given by the Federal Tribunal in a dispute between a foreigner and the treasury of the canton Ticino. When the foreigner took residence in the canton some three years ago he came to an agreement with the cantonal fiscal authorities which determined his capital and income tax for the succeeding three years without subjecting him to a new assessment. The visitor returned to England within two years and declined to pay the agreed taxes for the third year. The Ticinese tax collector, however, thought otherwise and insisted on fulfilment of the original "contract." Our highest court has now upheld this interpretation. Evidently if the visitor had died a few days after settling down in Ticino his estate would have become liable for three years' taxes!

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi le 4 Juin 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