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Eight pupils of the "Ecole mécanique et d'Electricité de Neuchâtel" lost their lives when visiting in the course of a conducted school excursion

the Rhone Glacier. Disregarding warnings they overstepped the safety zone and were caught and carried away by heavy ice boulders which suddenly and unexpectedly detached themselves from the solid mass. A company of gunners stationed in the neighbourhood were able to render first aid and extricate other members of the party.

In the excavations of the ruins of Vindonissa — the old Roman fortress at Windisch near Brugg — so far over 18,000 antique coins have been unearthed testifying to a lively business time during the Roman occupation.

The last volume of the Swiss family names book has now been issued. It has been compiled from official records and contains the names and civil status of every Swiss citizen.

The lure of the mountains is responsible for the death of a 67 years old alpinist who with younger friends was climbing the Luisin near Martigny when he lost his hold and made a fatal fall; the victim is André Wavre, a distinguished lawyer in Neuchâtel and a director of several large undertakings.

What is described as Europe's highest garden is the proud achievement of John Lemm, the landlord of the restaurant on the Weissfluhjoch near Davos. John Lemm is a former champion wrestler who some forty years ago fought for the European Championship at the Shaftesbury Theatre in London (The Editor of the S.O. happened to witness that performance).

In Zurich four workmen have been sentenced to one to four weeks' imprisonment for hoarding and secretly distributing communist literature.

The cause of the explosion on July 10th in the Neuchâtel station is stated to be the self-ignition of fireworks accumulated for the first of August celebrations. The fire spread over to other stores particularly a small quantity of synthetic dynamite. The whole of the goods depot has been completely destroyed and a number of adjacent private houses badly damaged; a railway shunter was killed outright and many people were injured two of them seriously. The damage exceeds a million francs.

Colonel Otto Weber, in charge of the St. Maurice fortifications (Valais), lost his life in a motor accident near Evionnaz; his army chauffeur Walter Clarer shared the same fate. Colonel Brigadier Schwarz was slightly injured.

Colonel Bernhard Füglistaller died in Basle at the age of 71. Until his retirement he had been for many years a member of the Grosse Rat; he was chairman of the well-known brewery concern founded by his father (Warteck).

The constant research for "Ersatz" has brought into being new industries notably the utilization of cheap woods. Under a process recently perfected substitutes are obtained for petrol and Diesel oil as well

as various by-products, such as fuel gas and materials used in the manufacture of dyes and disinfectants.

The chimes opening the First of August celebrations broadcast from Beromünster came from the former Klosterkirche of Wagenhausen (near Stein am Rhein) the belfry of which is believed to have been built before 1291.

The mining operations in the Fricktal stimulated by war conditions have resulted in an export of iron ore of 112,600 tons, over 50% more than in the year 1939.

## TWO BUSY COMPATRIOTS.

*The following is reprinted from the "World's Press News," August 28th; similar appreciations have appeared in other English periodicals and it would seem that our two compatriots are well-nigh the "enfants gâtés" of the M.o.I.*

Latest of the neutral journalists in London to be attacked by the Germans is G. J. Keller, president of the F.P.A. here, and London correspondent for the Swiss Telegraph Agency and the *Basler Nachrichten*.

The attack was made through the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, which had many unpleasant things to say about Mr. Keller because he was the man who arranged the luncheon at which Anthony Eden and Sikorski, the Polish Premier, met and made important statements on the Soviet-Polish relations. Maisky, the U.S.S.R. Ambassador, was also present.

In addition to the usual personal abuse, the German paper said that Mr. Keller's part in arranging the function put Swiss neutrality in a precarious state.

As usual, the relatives of the person attacked are also open to some threat from the Germans. In Mr. Keller's case his father is an M.P. and a former Speaker of the Swiss Parliament. He is, therefore, an especially good target.

Another Swiss journalist here who has been attacked from time to time is Dr. H. W. Egli, correspondent for the *Zürcher Zeitung*. After the Coventry blitz, Dr. Egli reported that the shopping and living centre of the city had been hit, but not the industrial parts, and that the bombing had all the appearance of being indiscriminate.

This aroused the Nazi Press, which, among other things, stated that Dr. Egli was in the pay of Churchill. At the M.o.I. Dr. Egli complained that if he was, he had not yet seen any money, whereupon an M.o.I. wag, with great ceremony, paid him for his work — a farthing.

Mr. Keller has previously been attacked for his stories about indiscriminate bombing, the fact that convoys still pass up and down the channel despite Nazi claims to the contrary, and articles which have stated that British morale is very good. It seems that anything which is contrary to German claims must expose the writer to abuse.

The Nazis, of course, have the names of all neutral journalists in Britain and keep a close check on their work. They use attacks in the German Press upon individuals with the hope of suppressing accurate news and comment from Britain.