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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

No official statement has been issued by the G.P.O. to the effect that the services to Switzerland are interrupted. Airmail letters take about four weeks but ordinary post and especially parcels are subject to considerable delay, due, it is said, to congestion on the French railways.

Our Parliamentary session came to an end on June 23rd when the National Council passed a credit of Frs. 280,000 towards the purchase for experimental purposes of a large farm in the canton Vaud. In the States Council an amount of 12 million francs was voted for improvements and additions in the Postal administration during the coming year.

The freedom and political liberties guaranteed under our Constitution formed the subject of a lively discussion in the National Council. The speaker from the government bench insisted that these privileges were still respected and protected but that Communist activities were dangerous to the State. This decision was a purely internal affair and was not influenced by developments elsewhere.

Following the diplomatic break between U.S.A. and Finland our country will look after American interests in Finland.

Owing to the exceptionally heavy call on our telephone system the Postal administration has appealed to the public to concentrate their conversations to the hours of noon to seven so as to free the lines for the use of the troops.

Since the middle of June four National Day Celebration stamps are on sale with a surtax at the Swiss Post offices. These stamps are sold in favour of the Swiss Red Cross. The 5cts. stamp shows a view of Heiden, the small township in which Henri Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross, died. The 10cts. is a reminder of the battle of St. Jakob a/Birs, (1444), bearing the picture of the famous chapel, and the 30cts. gives a

view of the Basle Cathedral and the Pfalz. The 20cts. stamp presents a view of the old castle of Mesocco in the Grisons.

### Cantonal

A strike has been declared by the window-cleaners of Zürich in order to enforce a demand for increased wages; at present their emoluments average two francs an hour. (They do not seem to appreciate the privilege of finding windows to clean.—Ed. S.O.)

Mgr. Marius Besson, the Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg, has been given the freedom of the city of Fribourg. The honour is paid as he enters his twenty-fifth year as Bishop, and is in recognition of his services to the city and Canton.

Striking of the old church clock at Meiringen which dates back to the year 1761 has been discontinued as a crack in the bell has made its appearance.

Baselstadt has voted an amount of 1.2 million francs towards the construction of additional tenement houses (Council flats).

Prof. Ludwig Zehnder, who is still lecturing occasionally at the Basle University, celebrated his 90th anniversary; he was in his earlier days part originator and noted exponent of the X-rays.

In Schaffhausen the Socialist Party launched a successful initiative for the election of the Grosse Rat on the basis of proportional representation.

In recognition of courageous and unselfish deeds among the youth of Schaffhausen during the recent bombardment, the Stadtrat has presented two young

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