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defiles, impassable except by relatively scanty means of communication; and further in the interior of the country numerous landslides have been provided for, which will definitely block roads, bridges and passes. A motorised invasion might conceivably find itself faced suddenly by a chasm, round the steep faces of which chamois and goats might clamber, but not soldiers carrying weapons, and still less armoured cars. Weather conditions would in such cases cause very great difficulties, for right out in the outlying hilly country there is normally a snowfall of such depth that, although we do not get the 10 to 20 meters of snow found on the ranges, falls of one to two meters are commonly measured.

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#### NEWS IN BRIEF.

On July 8th last, the Federal authorities prohibited all dealings in currencies deposited in Switzerland by individuals or companies from France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway and Luxemburg. Hundreds of millions of foreign moneys have been transferred to our country since the outbreak of the war. Switzerland is now freely called the "Banker of Europe" and is second to the U.S.A. as a safe place for "fugitive" capital.

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Federal Minister H. Obrecht is resigning from his position, due to ill-health. He was head of the department of political economy since 1935.

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A miniature motor, only half the weight, namely 0.06 grams, of the one shown at Zurich's exhibition last year, is now at the New York World's Fair. This tiny motor, constructed by F. Huguenin, a Swiss specialist, is valued at 5,000 dollars. The motor consists of 42 component parts and is mounted inside a pearl of 9.5 mm. diameter. This marvellous piece of work is viewed through a magnifying glass by the public, and of course the motor is constantly moving by its own power.

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The last capital punishment in Zurich took place in May, 1865 - fully 75 years ago. The final judgment was ratified through the Grand Council, in drawing lots: 100 black balls, against 87 white.

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An Army of 50,000 men, composed of French and Poles, crossed the Swiss frontiers on June 20th at Gaumois in the Bernese Jura. Many were wounded, all were dirty and tired. Some were bitter against their own leaders; others were joking and took everything with an easy conscience. The soldiers, including a full division of Poles, came partly from the battlefields of the Champagne and others from the southern Maginot Line. They were separated from the main forces through advancing Germans and their bombers. The fugitives were promptly interned and distributed in various quarters in the Bernese Oberland and Central Switzerland.

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The total donations towards the Swiss War Relief Fund in the United States of America amounted to well over 50,000 dollars.

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Mail to and from Switzerland is now transmitted through the U.S.A. and Portugal. Fast airmail services from New Zealand are despatched fortnightly by Pan American airships to New York, thence to Lisbon and by Italian planes to Rome, and finally by train to Switzerland.

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