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Autor: W.U.

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The compulsory surrender of all spare tyres and inner tubes for heavy motor vehicles has been ordered. The measure is intended to safeguard the replacement of these parts on lorries and tractors vital in the national interest. If the urgency arises the order may be made applicable to all motor vehicles.

An official poster is being widely displayed emphasising the urgency of the utmost food production. Over the slogan "plant more or die of hunger" a man is shown digging watched by an onlooker with hollow cheeks and sunken eyes.

The new Swiss steamer "Lugano" (10,000 tons) acquired by the Nautilus A.G., in Lugano, was handed over with the customary ceremonial and banquet at Dakar where owing to its former Italian nationality (its ancestral name being "Semien") it had been securely moored for the last two years in consequence of the blockade.

The unemployment insurance organisations recognised by the Confederation have paid out last year for total or partial unemployment the sum of 12.4 million frs. or seven million less than in the previous year. The average relief amounted to frs. 23.61 and is the lowest since 1929, when the average daily assistance was frs. 4.83, against frs. 5.32 today. The welcome development is due to the continued favourable conditions in the various occupational branches of industry whereby members of these insurances have found employment in work of national importance as well as in agriculture.

Over 3,000 sisters from the Congregation of the Holy Cross at Ingenbohl near Schwyz are at work all over the world in hospitals, schools and educational establishments. But the post of a Superior General is, since the death of the venerable Sister Agnes Schenk a year ago, still vacant. Now the General Council of the Congregation has elected Sister Diomira Brandonberg, from Zug, who for nearly forty years is a member of the Congregation, to the post of Superior General. Sister Brandonberg has been in charge of the well-known Clinica Quisisana in Rome for the last three years.

According to the "Manchester Guardian", August 17th, a party of Swiss journalists is expected to visit England. The visitors will include members of the staffs of both German and French Swiss journals representing the main political currents in the country. Among the papers represented will be the "Basler Nachrichten", the "Neue Zuercher Zeitung", the "Gazette de Lausanne", and the "Journal de Geneve".

The object of the tour is clearly to enable the leading figures of the Swiss press to observe war-time conditions in this country at first hand and to make themselves familiar with current political trends and opinions on war and post-war problems in this centre of Allied activity.

If the latest reports are reliable the party has so far not been able to obtain the requisite transit-visas.

OBITUARY.

The Swiss Benevolent Society in New Zealand sadly mourns the loss of one of the original members, Mr. John Schlaepfer, whose death occurred at his residence, the Helvetia Ostrich Farm, Pukekohe, on October 2nd, 1942.

The deceased was one of the best known and most popular old Swiss in New Zealand, who always took the keenest interest in the welfare of his compatriots. The Swiss Benevolent Society enjoyed his entire support from the beginning and beside the many kindnesses to anybody irrespective of nationality, his pockets were ever ready to the various calls from our country.

The funeral, which took place in Pukekohe, on October 4th, 1942, was one of the largest in the district, a fact which proved the great respect and popularity he enjoyed during his long residence.

Floral expressions of sympathy were also very numerous. The wreath of the Swiss Benevolent Society represented a Swiss Cross.

The Swiss community, especially the membership of our Society, was very well represented.

On behalf of the whole Swiss Community in New Zealand, we wish to offer to the bereaved brothers, John, Robert, Arnold and Walter Schlaepfer, our deepest sympathy and regret in their sad loss.