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In its meeting of September 29th, the Federal Council prohibited the exportation of all war material in a more restricted sense of the word, i.e. arms, ammunition, fuses, parts of aircraft and any other products of this kind. The prohibition will become effective on October 1, 1944, and will apply to all belligerent states according to the Convention of the Hague of October 18, 1917, on the rights and duties of neutral countries in wartime.

The Federal Council has decided to pay again this year special bonuses to the Federal employees and officials in order to enable them to do their winter shopping in time. The total bonuses paid will amount to 18 million francs. Married employees will get 210 francs, unmarried persons with a dependent 175 francs, and all others 140 francs.

In the National Council, the debate was continued on the financial situation of the Confederation. Federal Councillor Nobs drew a general picture of the present situation of the Confederation's finances. The deficit in 1944 budgeted at 125 millions will reach something like 200 millions due to the increase of social and economic expenditures and in particular to the drop in duty revenues. Old age insurance in particular and the consolidation of the financial situation of the Federal Railways will require large amounts. The time has not come to envisage a decrease in taxes. The government must outline the new financial program.

OBITUARY:

Held in highest esteem by a wide circle of friends, Mr. J.M. Amrein of Te Kuiti, passed away at his home in Kaitangiwaka, on September 8th. He reached the age of 75, and the Te Kuiti district loses one of the best known pioneers.

Mr. Amrein came to New Zealand in 1903 and took up farming in the Taranaki district. After his marriage to Miss Katharina Lutz at Stratford, he purchased property at Kaitangiwaka and for the remaining 35 years of his life farmed in that district. He is survived by his wife and 5 children, Messrs. Nicholas Amrein, Joseph Amrein, and Mesdames O'Reilly, Dowman and Remnant; also 16 Grandchildren.

Our Society extends to the bereaved family the most sincere sympathies and regrets.

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