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SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

After the Federal Council recognized the provisional Polish government of national unity on July 6, it was necessary to ask the provisional French government to protect Swiss interests in Poland until the arrival of a Swiss Minister in Warsaw. The French and the Polish governments have agreed to this request.

The Federal Council has given its consent to the arrangement of a holiday for a company of the fourth battalion of the Cold Stream Regiment of Foot Guards, i.e., the personal bodyguard of the English King. On September 24, the 150 men of this company will travel from their present quarters in Germany to Switzerland via Barga in the Canton of Schaffhausen. They will be accommodated in chalets of the English Polytechnical Club at Seeburg near Lucerne. They will keep their own household and will be fed on their own supplies. Switzerland will only furnish the fresh foods. The achievement of this action has aroused great satisfaction in our country.

The Federal Customs Office has taken special measures of precaution for the protection of our frontier guards against the smugglers and bandits at our southern border. In the future, our frontier guards will be armed with automatic pistols and two men will always be sent on patrol together. Furthermore, contact has been established with the head of the American frontier troops with regard to an effective co-operation in the fight against these smugglers.

A direct airline from Zurich to Amsterdam was opened on September 19. For the time being, three planes per week will fly on this line. This communication is particularly important as at the moment Amsterdam seems to be coming into the central point in the air traffic to Scandinavia and the East. Requests for transportation of the new airline are very numerous. Seats on the planes from Geneva and Zurich to Paris are usually booked several weeks in advance. Test flights to England indicate that regular air traffic between the British Isles and Switzerland will be opened before long. The same efforts are also made with regard to the establishment of a regular airline to Spain. The Swissair Company is also organizing special flights to Prague, Algiers, and Cairo which might be the prelude to the reintroduction of regular air traffic with those cities.

The Czechoslovak internees who have now been repatriated, have sent the following telegram to the Federal Council: "At the moment when we are leaving Switzerland, we are thinking with deepest gratitude of the generous hospitality we had been offered by the Swiss people. We return home wishing to put to use the experiences we have had in our own country in the interest of a still closer collaboration between our two democratic nations."

The second session of the National Committee of the Swiss Gift for War Victims has taken place in Berne under the chairmanship of former Federal Councillor Wetter and in the presence of Federal Councillor Petitpierre and Minister Stucki. An orientation was given on the work of the Swiss Gift so far. City Councillor Landolt revealed that until August 31, the Swiss Gift has received 36.6 million francs of donations. This sum, however, is not the total amount received and further donations of about 8 to 9 million francs are still expected. During the next winter, the Swiss Gift will above all send prefabricated barracks, textiles, shoes, tools and medicaments to the various countries in need. Furthermore, a certain part of the funds will be used for the hospitalization of foreign children and consumptive people in Switzerland. Dr. Boringier of the International Committee of the Red Cross made a report on the great misery reigning in various European countries and he declared that Germany too is urgently in need of help.

The International Committee of the Red Cross announces that the truck train which had been sent to fetch Swiss people living in Germany, returned to Switzerland on Thursday with 480 compatriots.

The Federal Council fixed the increased cost of living bonuses of the federal personnel for 1946. They consist of a quota per head and of an additional bonus of a certain percentage of the salary. The quota per head will be calculated according to the civil status of the persons. The total bonus for married people will be at least Sw. Frs. 1,600 and for unmarried people at least

Sw.Frs. 1,200, not including special bonuses for families with children. The additional bonus has been raised from last year's twelve to fifteen percent of the salaries.

Official statistics in Switzerland reveal that the general cost of living has increased by more than 50 percent, but a great number of articles are more than twice as expensive than before the war.

The National Council took up the discussion of the heaviest piece of work it had to do during its present session, i.e. of the new project of the Federal Council concerning revision of the economic articles of the Federal Constitution. Last year, the Chambers decided to revise these articles and asked the Federal Council to present a new project. It was this new project that was discussed. The principal characteristics are: not to grant in a general way the power of being compulsory to all decisions taken by professional organizations, but in limiting this compulsory character to the decisions bearing upon labor conditions. Furthermore, it grants the Confederation the right to make laws for the protection of workers and for foreign affairs of a social nature.

Thanks to imports from Tyrol, the shortage of fruits in Switzerland is now overcome. Further imports are expected, viz. oranges, tangerines and bananas from Spain. They will be on the market next winter.

The Canton of Berne Section of the Swiss Association for the Navigation of the Rhone and Rhine Rivers held its general assembly. Dr. Riniker, Director of the Maritime Navigation Office of the Confederation, gave a talk on the part played by the ships in reprovisioning Switzerland. The speaker also mentioned how Swiss maritime navigation made it possible for the Swiss to obtain coal for the country's needs in 1942. Mr. Studer, engineer from Neuchatel, president for the Swiss Association for the Navigation on the Rhone and the Rhine, informed the assembly concerning the state and progress of the preliminary work accomplished to make the Rhone navigable as far as Geneva. Mr. Studer also discussed the trans-Helvetian canal for which the city of Bienne will become the key position.

The government of the Canton of Ticino has taken notice of the communique of the Federal Department of Justice and Police with regard to the political cleaning action in Switzerland. According to this statement, the canton of Ticino has decreed 75 expulsions, including 178 persons. Fifty-two appeals to the federal authorities have been made against these decrees. In eight cases, the appeal has been rejected and in 48 cases, a remission of the expulsion has been granted. Thirteen decrees, including 21 persons have so far been carried out. Furthermore, the request for the permit of residence has been rejected in 47 cases. Investigations are still in progress about 400 aliens in Switzerland.

The Federal Council discussed the situation of the labour market where in various branches an unmistakable shortage of labour is felt. In these branches, permits for foreigners to enter Switzerland are to be granted. A similar situation has developed in the Swiss textile industry, where above all skilled women workers are greatly lacking. As a result of this labour shortage, restrictions of production in these enterprises almost seem to be inevitable. On the other hand, measures against a shortage must be taken with the greatest care so that they will not lead to exaggerated increases in the staffs of workers and to wholesale discharges later on.

The first budget of the Confederation since the end of war is being prepared at the moment. It foresees a deficit of about 300 million francs; military expenditures will again be calculated in the ordinary account. They will still be about 100 million francs more than in 1939, and will amount to a total of 250 million. Furthermore, the Confederation will have to use 50 million francs every year for the financial restoration of the Federal Railways. Finally, customs revenue can only be budgeted at a maximum of 95 million francs as against more than 250 million in normal times. Under these conditions, the deficit of 300 million francs for 1946 seems even moderate.

During the preparation of the 1946 budget of the Confederation, the Federal Council discussed the problem of military repetition courses in the coming year. The Military Department and also several members of the Federal Council seem to be of the opinion that now after six years of war, a short interruption in these courses should be granted. The authorities have to be guided in this question not only by economic but also by psychological considerations.

It is said that in 1946 only partial recruitments will be carried out and that the regular drafting system as practised before the war will only begin again in 1947. Next year all those who were left out before on doctors' orders will be drafted, as well as all those who wish to join the army before they are officially called.

The Federal War Office for Food Supply communicates that in November the ration of spaghetti, macaroni and noodles will be doubled. There will also be again 250 grams of jam, while the egg ration will have to be reduced from two to one. It is still possible that additional increases of food rations will be granted in the course of the month.

The French paper "Resistance" dedicated an enthusiastic article to the work of the Swiss Children's Aid. The paper declares that all French must know what Switzerland has done for their children. All those who have been fortunate enough to send their children to Switzerland should not fail to express their gratitude to the hospitable families of this hospitable country.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

Your fee to the S.B.S. became due on October 1st and we request you to remit either to the Secretary; to the Treasurer, Mr. W. Ungemuth, Clarence Road, Northcote, Auckland; or to the district collection agents, Mr. A. Peyer, 48 Moa Road, Auckland; Mr. John Steiner, Eastport Road, Waihou; Mr. C. Gebert, P.O., Opetiki. Please make our task easier in remitting PROMPTLY. We also wish to encourage those members in more fortunate positions, to remit whatever sum they care to donate, apart from the fee of 10/-, so that our Society can continue on a prosperous basis.

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Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8 - 9.30 p.m.

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