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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

The official weather forecasts issued from Berne are now suspended; one of the reasons given is that the information implied by this publicity might interfere with the neutrality of Switzerland.

* * *

Some commotion has been caused in Basle by the evacuation of most of the townships across the frontier such as Mulhouse, St. Louis and Hüningen. The tram services via Lysbüchel and between Riehen and Lörrach have, however, been maintained and enjoy increased favour on account of the restrictions imposed on motor-cars.

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The Rhine harbour at Basle is choked with all kinds of vessels as down-river traffic has been stopped. Empty passenger and freight boats have been moved higher up and are now moored near the bridges in towns thus imparting a novel aspect to the river banks.

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About 35,000 Swiss returning from France are expected in Geneva. The first train already left Paris on September 2nd early in the morning and carried about 1,200 compatriots amongst whom were a large number of children.

* * *

We take our hat off to Mr. Hermann Ferrari of St. Gall whose nine sons joined the colours when the general mobilisation was decreed in Switzerland last Saturday week.

* * *

The Geneva socialists are being subjected to severe criticism by the action of the Swiss Socialist Central Committee which proposes to expel the local president, M. Leon Nicole, from the party. Nicole is an ardent exponent of communist principles and has now been disowned by his life-long collaborator, André Oltramare.

* * *

The Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich which was closed at the outbreak of war has now been re-

opened though a number of events, mostly of an international character, will not take place. Fate has not been kind to our great exhibitions as the last one held in Berne in 1914 was overshadowed by a similar crisis.

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A special train left Berlin last Sunday week with a contingent of Swiss militia from Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland.

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The Federal Council is granting the necessary credits to the Cantonal authorities so as to enable them to assist Swiss refugees who are without means.

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A note affirming its neutrality has been addressed to the Federal Council by the Principality of Liechtenstein with the request to communicate its contents to the belligerent powers.

* * *

Major Paschoud, the general manager of the Swiss Federal Railways has been made a Colonel and is now the military director of our railway system; he is the brother of a once prominent member of our Colony who was for some years President of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

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A new catholic church in Dornach (Solothurn) was dedicated last Sunday week by Bishop Dr. F. von Streng.

* * *

Dr. Jacobi Balli, from Caverigno (Ticino), has been appointed Swiss Consul General in Barcelona; he succeeds Mr. A. Gonzenbach who filled this post during the Spanish Civil War.

* * *

General Guisan has appointed National Councillor Col. Dr. Roger Dollfus as his "Generaladjutant." Col. Dollfus hails from Castagnola and is 63 years old. During the last war he commanded the Ticinese infantry regiment. He studied law and economics and for a number of years directed a banking establishment in Milan.

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The Federal Council has granted the international committee of the Red Cross a credit of Frs. 200,000 to enable it to resume without delay its war activities. The organisation of an information service concerning prisoners of war and persons killed and missing in belligerent countries will be the first step.

* * *

Drastic regulations have been decreed for the control of foreigners especially deserters and those of the emigrant type. All visitors from abroad must now obtain a visa from the respective Swiss Consul.