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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

On July 5th the Federal Council addressed a message to all officers and men of the Swiss Army, in which they announced that partial demobilisation had been decided on. The Federal Council expressed the country's gratitude for the services rendered for the defence of Switzerland since the beginning of the war. The message stated further that the Army continues to represent the country's determination to maintain its independence.

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The Federal Assembly has been convoked for Wednesday, July 17th. The Order of Business is the election of a Federal Counsellor in the place of Federal Counsellor Obrecht who has resigned for reasons of health.

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In view of the present situation, the Federal Council has thought it advisable to request the Cantonal Governments to exert stricter control on political demonstrations and meetings. The Federal Council reserves the right to interfere and even to ban political gatherings, and to suppress political parties, if the safety and independence of Switzerland demand such measures.

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It has been announced in Berne that postal services between Switzerland and non-occupied France have been re-established. This does not apply to the German occupied parts of France or to the French Colonies. Railway communications are functioning between Geneva and Annemasse. For the time being a daily service runs in both directions. Postal communications between Switzerland and the United States are maintained via Lisbon. Telephonic communication has also been established between Switzerland and the United States.

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For the first six months of 1940 the revenue derived from Customs amounts to 143 million Swiss francs.

Excise revenue amounts to 35,100,000 Swiss francs, being five million less than in the corresponding period of the previous year.

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Since the beginning of July, hotels and restaurants are no longer allowed to serve hot meals after 9.0 p.m. This measure has been taken in order to save coal and gas, etc.

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The Canton Basselland has elected Mr. Brodbeck as President of their Government. With the object of providing work for demobilised soldiers, the Government have decided on a building programme to the extent of ten million Swiss francs.

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The Federal Council has decided to centralize the existing organisations for the promotion of tourist traffic in Switzerland. The seat of this new organisation will be in Zurich. A branch is to be established in Lausanne. It seems that the Swiss Federal Railway agencies abroad will come under the control of this new organisation as far as their propaganda activities are concerned.

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In order to diminish the consumption of wheat, the Swiss Federal authorities have decreed that as from July 10th bread can only be sold when it is 24 hours old.

* * *

The Swiss Legations in The Hague and in Brussels will cease to exist as from July 15th and will be replaced by Consular Agencies. This also applies to Oslo, which until now came under the direction of the Swiss Minister in Stockholm.

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Communications between the Basle S.B.B. and the German end of the Frankfurt-Basle line have been re-established.

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The Federal Council has decreed that payments in respect of commercial transactions with Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway and France, including its Colonies, Mandates and Protectorates, shall from now on be effected through the Swiss National Bank.