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exports to Germany) actually sent stocks or helped them to go to the neutral countries.

So far as Switzerland has been deprived of normal imports she has been deprived by Germany or by German-dependent countries. So far as she has benefited, she has benefited by British ships and by British help. In fact, four-fifths of the Swiss imports have come through the British blockade.

Swiss imports of wheat show that process the most plainly. In 1937 the countries now within the German Reich sent Switzerland nearly 30,000 metric tons of wheat. In the first 10 months of the war they sent 24 tons — less than a thousandth part of the previous total. From Europe as a whole Swiss imports of wheat fell from 228,000 metric tons (normal full year) to 130,000 metric tons. Yet, in spite of these falls, Swiss wheat imports greatly rose during the first 10 war months. That rise was due to a single fact. Imports coming from oversea — that is, from British territory or through the British blockade — rose from 228,000 (normal full year) to 454,000 metric tons. In spite of war, blockade, and every difficulty of transport, Switzerland bought 100,000 more tons of wheat than during a normal 10 months.

In other commodities the same rise can be noted — the same lie to German propaganda can be given. Textiles (of special value to the Swiss because of the worsened quality of woollen goods in the Axis countries) went up by 60 per cent. in the first 10 months of the war. Cereals as a whole increased by 300,000 metric tons over an average year; sugar by 50,000 tons; fruit and vegetables for canning and other staple foodstuffs by 110,000 tons; coffee, tea, cocoa by 900 tons; animal fodder by 150,000 tons.

As the Swiss consumption has not increased, her stocks must now be modestly like Pharaoh's granaries. At any rate, Switzerland, left to herself, has enough to maintain a good level of health and well-being in the country for many a long day.

Now, with Switzerland's external communications under enemy scrutiny or control, and with the increasing lack of foodstuffs and raw materials in the Axis countries (particularly in Italy) it becomes necessary to examine very carefully any supplies consigned to Switzerland from oversea. Although, when compared with German and Italian needs, Swiss stocks may be small, further imports — of necessity through enemy-occupied territory — must tantalize and tempt the unscrupulous enemy. It is to discuss the possibilities of meeting this situation, without risking a leak in the British blockade, that Dr. Keller has come to London.

Since then it has been officially stated that two cargo steamers loaded with goods destined for Switzerland have obtained right of way past Gibraltar for Italian ports.

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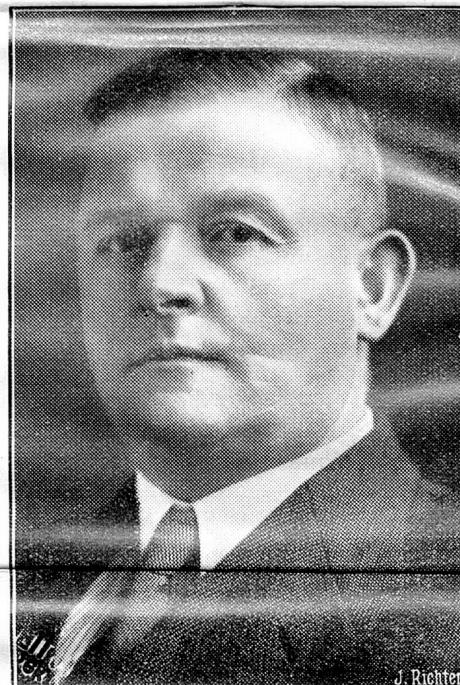
The "Financial Times," 6th September, brings this interesting item:

An attempt by the Swiss Aluminium Company of Lausanne — one of the world's leading producers — to transfer operations to the United States has been blocked by the Nazis, who are exercising a

strong influence on the Swiss Government, according to the "Wall Street Journal."

Official quarters in Washington believe that the Germans did not want production moved to a place where it was available to the British and that Germany has her own ideas about the company's future.

Company officials in New York revealed that there would be ample supplies of bauxite for aluminium production in the United States, but did not disclose their source.



J. Richter

FEDERAL COUNCILLOR STAMPFLI.

On the 18th July, Dr. Stampfli was elected to the position previously held by the now deceased Federal Councillor Obrecht.

Dr. Stampfli was born on the 3rd December, 1884, at Büren (Canton Solothurn); the son of a prominent local school teacher. He went to the Cantonal school and later distinguished himself, both in Zurich and Göttingen, in the study of economics, insurance and law. After 2 years in an insurance business in Karlsruhe, he turned to politics, and was in charge of the "Oltener Tagblatt" until 1918, although even in 1912 he had been elected to the Cantonal Council, where in 1922 he was elected President, and remained so until 1937.

From 1918 until 1921 he was the very competent secretary of the Solothurner Board of Trade. He then became secretary of the Rollschen Eisenwerke, at Gerlafingen, where he gave most of his attention to the welfare of the staff.

From 1931 he was for 2 years on the board of the Solothurner Kantonalbank, and served in several other administrative capacities both in commerce and in local state institutions. Outstanding talent, integrity, sincerity and practical ability contributed to his being elected to the Federal Council.