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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

The trade agreement between Great Britain and our country has now been agreed to and signed after seven months of delicate negotiations; it comes into force at once. No particulars are available apart from a general statement that the import and export of certain commodities are subjected to a rigorous government control and will be limited to our needs in normal times.

The whole of our country with the exception of a few frontier districts was blacked out from Thursday evening till Saturday morning last week for the purpose of an air-raid rehearsal. All traffic, including the railways, was temporarily suspended and the precautions were tested by air-raid warnings.

The Federal Council has issued a decree forbidding the display or wearing of foreign banners, flags or symbols for the duration of the present mobilisation.

* * *

For the purpose of consolidating the floating debt a five-year loan of 15 million francs has been obtained by Geneva from a banking syndicate. The loan will carry four per cent. interest and will be offered for public subscription at 96.70.

A change in the cantonal constitution is proposed by the St. Gall Regierungsrat to the effect that in future only three of its members may accept a mandate in the National Council; at present they occupy four seats.

* * *

The issues of the " Berner Tagwacht " and " Die Nation " (Zurich) elaborating the espionage charge against Lt.-Colonel Dr. Hans Trüb, have been confiscated by order of the Army Command.

In Baselland arrangements are being made to enlist the school boys for the agricultural work which owing to mobilisation would be neglected. The youngsters will enjoy free station and receive a daily allowance of 50 cts.

In a communication from a military source it is stated that there is evidence of rumours being put into circulation by some foreign agency.

A large tract of woodland has been destroyed by a fire which aided by the Föhn broke out in the forest between Brunnen and Gersau.

Altdorf is in need of a new girls school building which is to cost just over Frs.300,000 but the electors negatived the proposal by a three to one majority; the opponents maintain that a municipal air raid shelter should have preference.

Zurich has lost three millionnaires during the last year. According to official statistics just published there are only 358 out of a total of 202,377 taxpayers; the leading Croesus paid Frs.690,413 in communal taxes.

The movement against the so-called fifth column is often followed by truthless repercussions. Several prominent citizens who for business, professional or family reasons stayed for a short time on the other side of the Rhine have been denounced. Apart from the supervision exercised by the army command the frontier cantons are tightening the control of the foreigners and "tourists." In St. Gall, societies consisting chiefly of foreigners cannot meet without the previous permission of the police and the names of the speakers have to be notified. Amongst the 19,000 foreigners in Basle there are a good few thousand German maids; they will be expatriated. While Swiss newspapers generally are prohibited from taking sides the "Deutsche Zeitung," printed and published in Switzerland and reputed to be the organ of the German colony, is indulging without fear or hindrance in offensive attacks on the Allies.

It is stated that about 320 factory workers are daily crossing the frontier from Constance and neigh-

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi le 7 Mai à 6.30 h. précises au
Restaurant PAGANI 42, Great Portland Street,
W.1.

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.

Démissions.

Admissions.

Divers.

Le souper est facultatif et les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 2321/2).