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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Every able-bodied man in Switzerland has now been mobilised either for the army or the auxiliary services and it may be said that the state of war readiness has reached its utmost limit. The concentration of large numbers of troops on both the German and French frontiers has created apparent nervousness though the future is faced with calm and confidence. Stringent measures have been taken to counteract possible fifth column activities; an excessively large number of Germans are believed to live in our country, a good many of them in sanatoriums, and means have been devised to deal with them as soon as the necessity arises. Home guards have been formed in towns and villages for this purpose; these territorials are also trained to take charge of parachute invaders. The passive A.R.P. organisation have been armed and are placed under the orders of the army command.

* * *

Most of the schools and universities have been closed and the Students are encouraged to take up agricultural work.

* * *

Steel helmets and rifles with bayonets have been issued to the local police in Basle.

* * *

By the will of Frau Elisabeth Lussi-Zumbach, who died last February in Stans (Nidwalden), local philanthropic and ecclesiastic institutions have benefited to the tune of over Frs. 200,000 in addition to a like amount which she gave during her life-time.

* * *

An admirable article on Switzerland from the pen of Miss Dorothy Thompson was reprinted in the "Daily Telegraph" of May 17th. Unfortunately some of her references spoil the beauty of the otherwise perfect picture, and as it is said that the fair sex in our great sister republic on the other side of the Atlantic will only believe what is stated in black and white by Miss Thompson we may be allowed to lodge a gentle protest. We wish to single out the passage "the Swiss Confederation is composed of Germans, Italians and Frenchmen with the Germans in the

majority;" it runs like a motif through the whole of the article. If the good lady on her European perambulations had found time to look through a primer, she would have found that Switzerland existed centuries before there was any talk of "Deutschland" or the "Dritte Reich" and that Germany as we know it to-day is quite a modern concoction.

As no Swiss papers or official news have reached us during the last few days we have borrowed the following items from English contemporaries.

Severe sentences on Col. Dr. Hans Trüb and his associates who were arrested about a month ago in Berne have been passed according to "The Times" 21.5.40) Geneva correspondent; he reports:

Dr. Trüb, the official of the Swiss Military Department who was arrested on a charge of espionage on behalf of a foreign Power, has been sentenced by the Military Court to eight years' imprisonment, expulsion from the Army, dismissal from his office, and suppression of his citizen's rights for 10 years. His wife was sentenced to four years' imprisonment, and an accomplice named Müller to 10 years' imprisonment and 10 years' suppression of his citizen's rights.

* * *

A Heinkel bomber is stated to have come down last Friday week near the Dübendorf (Zurich) airport. The pilot is supposed to have lost his way and imagining themselves to be somewhere in France the crew put up a fight. However, three were soon overpowered while the remaining two escaped; after an all-night search they were captured the following day.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi le 4 Juin 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).

Le Comité