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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Some improvement in the postal service from Switzerland has recently become noticeable. Recent airmail letters have taken from three to four weeks and of course exhibit the two black eagles of the German censorship and a liberal use of scissors and paint brush, the latter obviously for the purpose of detecting invisible ink. The English censor obligingly includes a printed slip informing the recipient that "the British Examiner is not responsible for the mutilation of this letter." Some of the airmail of an older date seems to have gone astray altogether, while we have seen an ordinary letter which shows no sign of having been handled by the German Censor.

* * *

According to a decision of the Federal Council in November 1941, naturalisation can be withdrawn from newly admitted citizens, who obtained the Swiss citizenship by knowingly false declarations or who are showing anti-Swiss sentiments. Parliament and Federal Council have up to now shrunk back from withdrawing the citizenship of hereditary Swiss who proved themselves unworthy of that right. Events in the last few years, however, have induced the Federal Council to close this gap in the constitutional law. On several occasions it has happened that actual traitors of the country, as well as people who have become alienated from their homeland, have gone abroad and from there have incited against their own kith and kin. From Swiss Societies abroad complaints were received that "Swiss" came to them who expressed entirely anti-Swiss tendencies. To stop the proceedings of these offenders, the Federal Council has decided to extend the law of acquisition and loss of Swiss citizenship in such a manner, as to empower the Federal Department of Justice and Police to cancel the citizenship of any Swiss residing abroad who has offended against the political or economic security or independence and dignity of the country, either at home or abroad, and thereby proving himself unworthy of Swiss citizenship. At the same time a decision is to be taken as to which member of the family this withdrawal shall be extended.

This decision has been submitted for the consideration of both houses and it is not expected that it will

be materially altered, as it represents the will of a great majority of the population.

* * *

The Council of the Swiss Socialist party in reply to a letter from Mr. Leon Nicole, of 23rd February, has decided that in confirmation of the decision taken by the Federal Council, the party refuses to enter into any parley for a common action with the Swiss Communist party and the federation of Swiss socialists. Since then it has become known that the Federal Council intends to lift shortly the ban on the Swiss Communist party. The latter together with the Socialist Workers party was outlawed immediately after the fall of France. The ban on the small groups supporting and disseminating Nazi conceptions remains in force which has intensified German attacks on our Government.

* * *

The Political Department has received information that all Swiss residents in Tunis are safe and well. On the other hand it is reported that our Legation in Sofia has instructed Swiss citizens living in Bulgaria to send their wives and children home to Switzerland.

* * *

The National Bank has stated that the expenses in connection with the war have up to the present reached 5,700 million francs of which 1,100 million have been obtained by a capital levy and a quarter by taxation. The issue of an internal loan of 300 million francs is under consideration for the purpose of paying off floating debts and procuring the necessary funds for current requirements.

* * *

The customs receipts amounted to frs.12,800,000 or an increase of frs.1,600,000 compared with those in January 1942.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les Membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE ANNUELLE.

aura lieu Samedi, 10 avril, 1943, à 2h.30, au Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1. Elle sera précédée d'un lunch à 1 heure p.m. précise.

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.	Rapport du Trésorier et comptes de l'exercice.
Admissions.	Rapport des Vérificateurs des Comptes.
Démotions.	Election du Comité.
Rapport du Président.	Divers.

Prière de s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès du Secrétaire Mons. Henry Binggely, 167, Clapham Road, S.W.9. (Phone RELiance 4150).

Les membres sont instamment priés de réserver leur place par écrit et de s'abstenir de téléphoner.