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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

An ardent appeal was sent over the Swiss radio on March 22nd calling on our people to approach the future with a spirit of sacrifice and determination as the iron belt round our country would probably be pulled tighter still. The experience of a Swiss doctor was cited who during his mission in a Finnish military camp had to amputate the leg of a young soldier. He was trying to find suitable words to express his sympathy when the Finn interrupted him by saying "Sir, I know what you would like to say and I thank you, but for My Finland I would gladly sacrifice the other leg." Federal Councillor von Steiger stated in a recent speech at Zurich that the coming six months would be the most critical period which our country had ever faced.

* * *

In the National Council the consideration of a Federal decree authorising the canton of Geneva to restrict on clearly defined lines the right of other Swiss citizens to take up residence in its territory produced an animated discussion. Geneva is in fact in a very delicate position. The great frontier town has to protect herself against a double danger, firstly from the influx encouraged by her traditional spirit of hospitality of a large number of undesirable people from abroad who wish to settle down for the time being and secondly from receiving confederates whose limited financial resources may ultimately render them a burden to the State which is already taxed to the utmost in sustaining the many charitable organisations working from this centre. The new decree is a denial of the constitutional right guaranteed to every Swiss and which allows him to take up his residence in whatever canton he chooses. The Council finally accepted the alteration in our Constitution with a majority of 89 to 57.

* * *

On the resumption of the debate on the Nicole petition in the National Council, Mr. Delberg (Radical, Berne) maintained that the ban on the Swiss Socialist Federation was legally correct. No new development justified a change in the attitude of the Governments which had to watch over the security of the country.

The spokesman of the minority of the committee, Mr. Leuenberger (Socialist, Zurich) remarked that the measure aimed at the suppression of the opposition; he also considered that the interference was stronger towards the extreme left than towards the extreme right. Another socialist put forward a motion to give a hearing to Nicole's petition for the removal of the ban affecting the communist party, the Swiss Socialist Federation and the papers "*Le Travail*" and "*La Droit du Peuple*." Communism would gain less adherents if social justice were less disregarded. Mr. Albert Picot defended the policy of the Geneva authorities, which was very concerned about its obligations towards the social order. In this respect Geneva was not behind the other cantons. In his opinion the political influence of Mr. Nicole was greatly exaggerated. The Geneva authorities were not in favour of exceptional measures.

* * *

The introduction of control numbers for bicycles was proposed in the National Council. M. von Steiger admitted that the wide use of bicycles increased road danger. The Police Department is of opinion that a solution in co-operation with the cantons will be arrived at. The proposal was accepted.

* * *

The recent issue of 150,000,000frs. of 3½ per Cent. Federal Loan and 150,000,000frs. of 2½ per Cent. Treasury Bonds has been heavily oversubscribed. The Federal Council has decided to accept the full amount of the subscriptions, namely 232,000,000frs. of the 3½ per Cent. Loan and 255,000,000frs. of the 2½ per Cent. Bonds.

* * *

In answer to a petition presented by Leon Nicole and his associates to the executive of the Swiss Socialist Party, the latter has definitely declined to un-

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les Membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi, le 4ème mai, 1943, à 6 p.m., au Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1, (near Green Park Tube Station).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.	Démotions.
Admissions.	Divers.

Conférence par Monsieur de Graffenried, Attaché Commercial, Légation de Suisse.

Prière de s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Mons. P. A. Moehr, c/o Acme, Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.2. Téléphone: TEMple Bar 5735.

LE COMITE.