

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1943)

Heft: 1014

Rubrik: Prepaid subscription rates

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: Clerkenwell 2321/2.

Published Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

Vol. 25 — No. 1014.

LONDON, JULY 30th, 1943.

PRICE 6d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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Basle V 5718).



NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The chief of the Federal Economic Department, Federal Councillor Stampfli, in reply to several parliamentary requests, has explained in the National Council the Swiss social programme for after the war. The first place in these measures is given to the provision of work in time of a possible crisis which might arise through lack of raw materials. Some considerable time ago a very extensive program has been evolved and prepared to put into action as soon as need arises. For this purpose a part of the salary and wages equalisation fund for serving soldiers, which at the moment amounts to 260 million francs is to be used. Conditional to every efficient social policy is the preservation of a healthy and vital economy and for that purpose prices and wages must be kept in check in order that the possibility to compete with foreign countries is not totally lost. Unfortunately the enormous weight of the mobilization debt will press heavily on the whole economic system for two or three decades, so that there are less means at the disposal for social schemes. However, the Federal Council proposes the following measures: Creation of a motherhood insurance, extension of the compulsory health insurance with the assistance of the Confederation to economically weak sections of the population, extension of the compulsory accidents insurance to agricultural labour, increased federal subsidies for the insurance against tuberculosis, preservation of a healthy agricultural industry and of a vitally strong trade in the after war period, provision for a bill about labour in the retail trade and small concerns, safeguarding of legal holidays for certain categories of employees. Towards the general old age and survivors insurance and the introduction of a family wage, which is the object of several initiatives, the Federal Council will further consider the various proposals before expressing an opinion. The whole of the federal social program is therefore built up on already existing foundations and will be advanced step by step. It is not a paradise on earth, but an endeavour for an economically bearable and social utility measure.

It is officially announced that the Federal Council has suspended the Eidgenössische Sammlung and the Nationale Gemeinschaft Schaffhausen and banned their papers "Die Front" and "Der Grenzbote." The Eidgenössische Sammlung was emphatically warned in April 1942 that its existence, with that of its organ, could only be continued provided an absolutely clear Swiss policy was observed in future. The meetings, which were under official observation raised no objections, but the purging of the movement of treacherous elements was not drastic enough. Many sentences by criminal courts — such as that inflicted on Leutwiler; the incorrect information given by the leader of the movement regarding the membership of the traitor, Zuercher, who had been condemned to death; the trial of Reutlinger who belonged to the Eidgenössische Sammlung and was also condemned to death; the sentences passed towards the end of June 1943, on Dr. Waldwirt, and the leader of the Nationale Gemeinschaft Schaffhausen, Dr. Eisenhut; show clearly that the leading organs of the Eidgenössische Sammlung and of the Nationale Gemeinschaft Schaffhausen lack the will for an energetic purge of their organisations, though labelled Swiss. In these circumstances their continued existence is out of the question.

* * *

M. Pilet-Golaz Chief of the Federal Political Department, in a report on June 29th referred to the ill-feeling existing on the Swiss frontier by the firing

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, August First, 1943

AT THE

**STOLL THEATRE,
Kingsway, W.C.2**

at 3 p.m. sharp (doors open 2.30 p.m.)

**ADMISSION (FREE) reserved to Swiss and their
personal English friends who must accompany them.**

REFRESHMENTS.

*Will those ladies and gentlemen who act as Stewards
or Programme sellers kindly be at the Stoll Theatre not
later than 2 o'clock.*