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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The impression brought about in our country by the latest developments in the theatre of war is reflected by a leader in the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung," of September 9th, from which the following is an extract: At a moment when Italy, already sorely tried, faces new trials, Switzerland feels the deepest compassion for a neighbour to whom she owes so much of a spiritual and cultural nature. We can only respect the longing of the Italian people for peace which has been demonstrated in the decisions taken by the Government ...

For Switzerland the watchword is again "Supreme readiness, unshakeable determination" ... As a first measure the frontier troops have been called up ... and it is clear to every Swiss that extreme military vigilance is necessary. Each step that brings the war nearer to our frontiers can only strengthen the determination of the Government and the people to maintain the integrity of the Swiss Confederation no matter who may threaten it.

* * *

A recent broadcast from the Schwarzenburg station stated that our country was now entirely surrounded by German troops which seems to indicate that traffic with our southern neighbour would be temporarily interrupted. In fact it was reported at different times that the frontier was "closed" and "re-opened;" the harbour of Genoa will naturally be no more available for Swiss shipping which once again will have to be diverted to overland routes via Portugal, Spain and France. There is no justification for the statement printed first by the *Daily Express* that the German government has demanded the use of our railways for the war transport to Northern Italy and it is to be regretted that the B.B.C. in a German broadcast repeated it with comments. We know the news from the B.B.C. is welcomed by our people at home for their truthfulness and this "Canard" is likely to create doubts in their veracity.

* * *

After a meeting of the Federal Council on September 21st dealing with questions arising from occur-

rences along the Italo-Swiss frontier it was stated that refugees in civilian clothes carrying weapons will be refused admittance.

* * *

The competent Committees of the Federal Chambers have studied the petition supported by ten thousand signatures, to grant an amnesty to a few communists who had been condemned by the Federal Tribunal and also a demand for the annulment of the interdiction of the communist party and its press. The Committee of the National Council was nearly unanimous in the rejection of the amnesty and by a two-thirds majority also rejected the demand for the annulment of the party and its press prohibition. There is no doubt that the Committee of the States Council and afterwards the two Chambers themselves will decide in a similar manner.

* * *

The party conference of the Swiss Socialists held at Winterthur passed a resolution by 440 against eight protesting against the Government suspension of the Fédération Socialiste Suisse (Nicole's communist party) and its affiliated associations. Another resolution passed by a three to one majority insisted that any communist must renounce his membership of the latter before he could be admitted to the socialist party.

* * *

In a speech delivered on August 21st, at Rapperswil, Federal Councillor von Steiger stated that during the war 32,000 Swiss had returned from abroad; of these 6,000 managed to resume their vocations abroad while 26,000 had to remain in the country. He could not give the total number of Swiss citizens residing in foreign countries but estimated that about 100,000 were living in France, 45,000 in Germany and 15,000 in Italy.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les Membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu mardi le 5 octobre à 7h.15 et sera précédée d'un dîner à 6h. précises au Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.	Démissions.
Admissions.	Divers.

Cette Assemblée sera en forme d'un "Bierabig mit Esse."
Les Membres sont priés de s'inscrire pour le dîner par écrit au plus tard le 2 octobre auprès de Mons. P. A. Moehr, Hon. Sec., Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.2. Prière de s'abstenir de téléphoner.

LE COMITE.