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number of families of the inhabitants of our mountains have thus had the most precious of help, namely help through work. These badges will be on sale at the end of October.

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As the refugees, of whom there are about 61,000 in Switzerland, cannot all be accommodated in schools and other existing buildings, the Federal Council has granted Fr.3,000,000 for the erection of special huts.

At the Fourth Swiss Congress of Employees, Federal Councillor Stampfli conveyed a message of greetings from the Federal Council. He stated that the efficiency of the employee must decide his chances of promotion, and that every employee has a right to receive an adequate salary. He suggested that the regulations concerning retirement grants (Abgangsschädigung) for elderly employees should be investigated. Dealing with the question of old age insurance and insurance of families bereft of the bread-winner, Stampfli stated that it is at present difficult to work out a satisfactory scheme, owing to the heavy burden of debts and the varying conditions in the Cantons. The Federal Council has, therefore, raised the Old Age Pensions, as an interim solution.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Press Association has held its annual meeting at Basle, celebrating at the same time the 60th anniversary of its foundation. Mr. Etter, Chief of the Department for the Interior, thanked the Press for its collaboration in the matters of control rendered necessary by the neutrality of the country. He said this collaboration has bred a sense of responsibility, particularly important now when the war has entered a stage which might make our country's situation very difficult. Thanks to the Press our people preserve sound judgment. The Press Association's spokesman in reply gave an assurance that the Press would always have the interest of Switzerland at heart. No political party, no foreign power could make it depart from this course.

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An international rifle shooting match between Swedish and Swiss Rifle Associations took place in the fourth week of August in which competitions in shooting with small calibre rifles, army rifles, carbines (Stutzer) and match pistols took place. The Swedes were the winners in the small calibre arms with 4,585 points against the Swiss with 4,531 points, the other three competitions were won by the Swiss:— Army rifle 4,146 points against 4,074, carbines 4,326 as against 4,234 and match pistols 4,213 against 4,167 points. The several competitions were shot at the same time in Sweden and Switzerland under the control of delegates of both countries and the results transmitted by telegraph. Individual winners in the various arms were:— small calibre rifles, Kurt Johannson (Sweden) 589 points, army rifles, Karl Zimmermann (Switzerland) 529 points; carbines (Stutzer) Kurt Johannson (Sweden) 553 points and pistols, Willy Büchi (Switzerland) 548 points.

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The exceptionally hot and rainless summer has not only caused great damage to some parts of the country by drought, but has caused actual catastrophies. In the Val d'Hérens, in the canton of Valais, a hidden lake broke forth under the Ferpècle glacier

which caused very extensive damage in the valley. Also beneath the glacier on the Gornergrat near Zermatt a great quantity of molten snow water collected, which suddenly broke forth and doing great damage to villages down in the valley. In the Calanda mountains in the Grisons, near Chur, a large forest fire broke out which was only stopped after several days hard work of the fire brigades of the neighbourhood and a large contingent of troops. Only the falling rain eventually extinguished the last embers in the difficult get-at-able mountain forest. Also a well-wooded hill above Waasen on the St. Gotthard Railway burnt for days and the fire was carried further afield by the Foehn. The damage to both forests is very great.

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The section Diablerets of the Swiss Alpine Club has opened the newly rebuilt Constantia hut on the Mountet in the presence of a large number of members. The hut is situated at the edge of the Zinal glacier (2,894m.). The first hut was built in 1872 and enlarged in 1919. The present reconstruction has room for 120 people.

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Not only has Switzerland the highest Hotel in Europe, now it has also the highest altar. The "Catholic Times" of 24th September, states that an altar was erected on the highest peak in the Swiss Alps on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross announces Vatican Radio.

Mass was said at the altar and a cross was blessed. Among the prayers said was one for the protection of the country in its present difficulties.

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The editor of the "Schweizer Illustrierte Zeitung," Rédacteur E. Pargaetzi, died at Zofingen at the age of 58. For 12 years he was the leading spirit of this very well known undertaking and to him a great deal of its success is due.

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Mr. William Angehn-Wild and his wife Elise commemorated their diamond wedding on September 24th in St. Gall.

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The first German war correspondent to interview the Commander of the Swiss Vatican Guard, Col. von Pfyffer, was *Transocean's* special correspondent, Weber. German officers or soldiers are not allowed to enter the Vatican City unless they have a special permit from the German Military Commander of Rome. Pfyffer said: "Never before have there been so many false reports about the Vatican since the German occupation of Rome. We do not consider ourselves prisoners. The watch at the gates of the Vatican City is stricter than before because political troubles in Italy have caused many people to try and gain access to the Vatican City to escape their political opponents.

15 Swiss youths having enlisted as recruits for the Vatican guard received permission on October 13th from the German authorities at the Ponte Chiasso frontier to enter Italy. They will go to Rome in order to reinforce the Papal guard.

## OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We hope to publish our next issue on November 26th.