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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

The Editor very much regrets that it has been found impossible to go to press at the usual time. Labour difficulties have been mainly responsible for the unavoidable delay and may seriously interfere again with the publication of the next few issues. The Editor also wishes to say that the news under this heading is believed to be reliable but for known reasons no means have been available to have them checked over from another source.

Federal

The "Financial Times," May 8th says: "Negotiations are reported at Washington to be in progress in

London between Swiss and American representatives on the question of cutting Swiss exports to Germany of ball-bearings, chronometers, fuses, and precision instruments. The Swiss are also being asked to reduce their credits to the Germans. It is believed that our Government is not unwilling to make concessions in return for an extension of navicerts for raw materials needed in addition to the food and fodder so far imported.

* * *

The first of May was celebrated throughout Switzerland in a quiet and dignified fashion. In Berne an address was given by Dr. Max Weber while at Zurich and Schaffhausen several orators spoke to the workers. In the latter place the mayor emphasised the people's will to defend our independence and expressed their sympathy with the workers of all countries in their fight for liberty and social justice, especially those who had declined to capitulate to tyranny and dictatorship.

* * *

Dr. Edmund Schulthess, LL.D., four times President of the Confederation died at Berne on April 22nd. According to the obituary published in "The Times," he was born in 1868, educated at Berne University, and, taking up law, became a lawyer of distinction. He took a close interest in politics from the early days of his career and became a member of

Parliament in 1905. In 1912 he was made a federal councillor and during part of the period of the 1914 to 1918 war was head of the Department of Public Economy. He was president of the Confederation in 1917, 1921, 1928, and 1933. In 1935 he became president of the Federal Bank Commission and in 1939 president of the International Labour Conference. He did much to further the development of agriculture and the scheme for old age insurance.

* * *

The former secretary of the Swiss socialist party, August Hungel, died in Berne at the age of 67; he was a member of the National Council for many years.

Cantonal

The elections for the Grosse Rat of the canton Schwytz showed little change. The council is reduced from 103 to 99 seats which are filled by 53 conservatives (56), 30 radicals (35), 13 socialists and three independents.

* * *

The accounts for 1943 of the canton Obwalden exhibit considerable economies the deficiency of about Frs. 94,000 being less than half the figure estimated in the budget.

* * *

The cantonal accounts of Lucerne to end of December last show a deficit of over 1½ million francs.

* * *

A credit of no less than eight million francs is being sought by the Zurich municipality in order to make butter available to the population at a reduced price.

* * *

The voters of Winterthur have sanctioned a scheme offering a 15 per cent cash subsidy towards the cost of constructing 40 one-family houses.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les Membres sont avisés que la prochaine

ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu mardi, le 6 juin au Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1, le dîner commencera à 6h. précises.

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.

Démissions.

Admissions.

Divers.

Monsieur Geoffrey Crowther nous parlera au sujet

"Post-War Economic Policy."

Les Membres sont priés de s'inscrire par écrit pas plus tard que le 3 juin auprès de M. P. A. Moehr, Hon. Secr. Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.2. Prière de s'absentir de téléphoner.

LE COMITE.