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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Circumstances beyond our control have forced us to reduce again the number of pages of our issue. Readers will probably realise the difficulty of obtaining regular news from our country under present conditions, but the few items assembled below are believed to be reliable.
—ED. S.O.

Federal

Many post-war problems have been raised in the present session of our Parliament without the Federal Council committing itself in any way. The prohibition of fresh newspapers and certain political publications as well as the general press censorship have been severely criticised. The continued suppression of the communist party is not justified—it is maintained—as they cannot be charged with any act punishable under our laws.

Federal Councillor Stampfli, the President of the Confederation, has issued an urgent appeal enjoining everybody to do the utmost in maintaining a regular supply of the necessities of life. The continued diminution in the import of foodstuffs forces us to extract the highest possible yield from our own soil.

According to "The Times," May 22nd, Federal Councillor Kobelt, the Chief of the Military Department, stated in the course of a speech delivered at the centenary celebration of the Swiss Y.M.C.A. that Switzerland would not be in a position after the war to lay down her arms even if a new world organization pledged a perpetual peace. She would sacrifice her neutrality and independence the day she relaxed her defences and placed herself under the military protection of foreign Powers or of a world organization.

Replying to a question in the House of Commons on June 14th, Mr. Eden (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), paid us the following compliment: "I think the Swiss Government are already aware of the gratitude felt by his Majesty's Government for the many services which they have rendered us as Protecting Power. But

I gladly avail myself of this opportunity to give public expression to the very warm gratitude of his Majesty's Government for the action of the Swiss Government in giving asylum and ministering to the needs of large numbers of refugees and escaped prisoners of war of many nationalities within their territory.

A Swiss Federation of labour parties (?) has been constituted at Basle when delegates from different cantons were addressed by M. Nicole from Geneva and other demagogues. Resolutions were carried demanding the re-establishment of the right of meeting in public, an adjustment in the cost of living and an early resumption of normal relations with Soviet Russia.

Over 114,000 signatures are contained on the lists deposited with the Federal Chancellery demanding a resumption of diplomatic relations with Soviet Russia.

At a meeting of the Socialist Parliamentary Group presided over by Mr. Robert Grimm and held at Zurich, Federal Councillor Nobs, our Minister of Finance, hinted at economic readjustments necessitated by post-war conditions and stressed the vital need of counteracting without further delay the expected crisis on the labour market.

An official caution has been issued by the Department of the Interior with reference to the purchase of foreign art treasures. It is added that these objects are often imported for political reasons and prices are paid which do not always reflect their real value. It is intimated that some measure of control is likely to be introduced.

In an address to a local Liberal Party meeting at Lucerne, Federal Councillor Stampfli is credited with the

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les Membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi, le 11 Juillet, 1944 à 6h., dîner à 6h. 30 au Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London. Cette assemblée sera en forme d'un "Bierabig." Les Membres sont priés de s'inscrire par écrit au plus tard le 8 Juillet auprès de M. P. A. Moehr, Hon. Secr., Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 Prière de s'abstenir de téléphoner.

LE COMITE.