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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The prospect of a somewhat normal postal service between this country and Switzerland is gradually approaching its realisation. On October 10th the Swiss Radio announced that ordinary mail for England will again be accepted; it will be sent once a week by lorry from Geneva to the Franco-Spanish frontier but no information is given as to the route it will follow then. The arbitrary and intermittent closure of this frontier is likely to cause uncertain delay, but the exit of the German censorship will probably compensate for this retardation. As regards Airmail, the Postmaster General announced on October 19th that this service has been restored; letters will be flown to Lisbon, thence by surface routes to Switzerland.

The Federal Council at its meeting of the 13th inst. sanctioned the issue of a loan of 500 million francs to finance current expenses to the end of the present year.

A large credit arrangement — amount and terms are not disclosed — has been concluded by a consortium of Swiss Banks with the Dutch Government for reconstruction purposes.

In the States Council a member urged the Federal Council to promulgate a decree offering assistance to home craft especially in mountainous regions; he was not thinking so much of financial aid, but favoured the supply of tools and small machines as well as professional instruction.

In the National Council a Socialist member (Dellberg) submitted a motion for a legislative measure to limit the dividends of limited companies to 6% p.a.

As from October 1st all export of war material from Switzerland has been banned. This decree affects particularly Germany, which country has been in regular receipt of fuses, aeroplane parts, precision instruments etc.

Contrary to the principle that every Swiss has a right to a passport for travelling or for settling outside

the home frontiers, the Federal Department for Justice and Police can, based on a decision of the Federal Council in November, 1941, impose a veto on the issuing of a passport, if there is a fear that by the residence abroad a serious breach of State interests may be caused. According to official figures there are besides the fourteen cancellations of citizenships, a further thirty-four cases of refusals of passports. This concerns particularly those Swiss living abroad, against whom the cancellation of citizenship could not be enforced, but who acted in a decidedly un-Swiss manner.

A recent instruction by the Federal Council to the frontier officials has created the impression abroad that the Federal Council has abandoned the right of asylum exercised up to now. In answer to this the Swiss authorities state that fundamentally the instructions of July 12th, 1944, do not alter the then prevailing conditions, but are merely uniform directions to be observed by all frontier officials, based on the experiences of the past years. As a directing line are the old conditions that next to military persons, civil persons are only received who for political or other reasons go in fear of their lives and who have no other way of escape from that danger than to flee into Switzerland. Foreigners who through objectionable actions appear to be unworthy of the asylum, or who through their previous activities or attitude have damaged or endangered Swiss interests are at all times to be refused. No one can expect of a country which, from its own poor soil and only under the utmost exertions, can provide just sufficient for its own citizens and the tens of thousands of foreign refugees who already enjoy its protection, to receive either unworthy or even hostile guests.

The Japanese Minister in Berne has requested the Federal Council to consent to the "Imperial Japanese

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les Membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu mardi, le 14 novembre, 1944, à 6h., dîner à 6h. 30 au Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.

Démissions.

Admissions.

Divers.

Monsieur le Hon. Harold Nicholson, C.M.G., M.P., nous parlera au sujet

"The last Peace Treaty and the next".

Les membres sont priés de s'inscrire par écrit pas plus tard que le 11 novembre auprès de M. P. A. Moehr, Hon. Secr., Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C. 2. Prière de s'abstenir de téléphoner.

LE COMITE.