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Fresh eggs in Switzerland have been nearly as scarce as in this country. In the last year the ration card entitled a holder to 28 whilst in the two previous years the quantity was fixed at 43 and 31 per annum respectively.

* * *

The increase in the price of paper — 3d. per lb. — already officially sanctioned has met with a protest from the newspaper publishers who feel strongly that with the all-round efforts to re-establish "normal" conditions the rise is not justified.

* * *

Light upon the precarious existence of the coal miners in the canton Valais is thrown by their march to Lausanne where they protested against the contemplated closing of the mines and demanded that our coal merchants should continue to market our expensive "black diamonds."

* * *

Coal imports showed a disastrous drop from 1¼ million tons in 1944 to 213,000 tons in 1945; normal imports in pre-war years varied between 3 and 3½ million tons.

* * *

The rationing of benzin (petrol), Diesel and heating oils is to be discontinued as from the end of this month; prices remain the same as before.

* * *

A British automobile exhibition was opened at the beginning of this month at Zurich in the Congress Hall. New models of the Standard and Triumph light cars are being shown at prices which appear to us over here very attractive. So far there is hardly any competition to English cars. In the two years before the war over 18,000 cars were imported into our country; the British share reached barely 6%.

* * *

According to our daily press over half a million wristlet and pocket watches are waiting to be repaired. The essential spare parts from Switzerland cannot be imported on account of the currency restrictions enforced by the British treasury.

* * *

Apart from motor cars and fountain pens other more essential goods are beginning to reach Switzerland from this country, as the following cutting from "The Scotsman," February 1st, affirms:

> "Edinburgh's first post-war trade to Switzerland started yesterday, when 20 crates of woollen cloth were sent off by George Harrison and Co., Chambers Street.
>
> They went via Leith on the initial stage of their journey to Basle. The textiles, designed for women and men's suitings, have been piling up for four years. Next lots will go to Zurich, Geneva and Berne. Orders worth thousands of pounds are pouring in for woollens from most European countries, but shortage of labour is holding up export.
>
> The firm's manager stated — 'Manufacturers are quoting nine to twelve months for delivery of goods.' All the crates were marked with the firm's thistle trade mark and the inscription, 'Scotland Delivers the Goods.'"

———oo———

No ostentation was the order that went before Field-Marshal Montgomery's visit to Switzerland. On February 3rd he arrived without much ado at the Badische Bahnhof at Basle in a special train of seven sleeping and saloon carriages; he was accompanied by two adjutants and 18 army policemen and batmen. The train was wheeled across the Rhine to the S.F.R. track where an electric engine completed the journey to Saanenmöser. From that moment the Field-Marshal became the topic in the Swiss press; his simple and unassuming way in meeting old acquaintances won him the hearts of old and young. We find him pictured along with a local schoolboy also trying to learn skiing, shaking hands with his old friends at the Hotel Wildstrubel in Lenk, writing his autograph in exchange for a bar of rich milk chocolate from a smiling girl in a mountain tuckshop, etc. Before he leaves the great soldier is expected to accept an invitation to lunch with our president, Dr. K. Kobelt.

* * *

A special train is likely to bring a crowd of football enthusiasts from Switzerland to witness the match against England which is to take place in May next; we trust they will bring plenty of Swiss francs with them to relieve the annoying shortage in this country.

* * *

Hans Gerschwiler, the famous figure skater, whose home is at Richmond, has won the Swiss amateur figure skating championship. During the war Hans Gerschwiler became very well-known locally through his generous services on many occasions in ice shows held at the Richmond Sportsdrome for charities and National Savings weeks.

* * *

Like a good many of our pre-war hobbies the housing of canaries has gone out of fashion. However, at the recent National Cage-Bird Show at the Horticultural Hall two golden-red canaries were flown from Switzerland and the fancier, Mr. Sollberger-Wenger, won a first and second prize.

SWISS RADIO.

We have heard from a number of readers, that the programme relayed to North America daily (except Saturday) from 20.20 — 20.50 Swiss time by the short wave sender Schwarzenburg (Welle 28.83 m./10.405 kc.) can be heard quite clearly in this country.

The programme consists of comments on daily events, news, lectures, sports news, etc., etc.

MONTY IS IN SWITZERLAND.

But can you find him in this Cartoon?

With the caption "Der Mont Gomery," this cartoon appears in the Swiss newspaper, "Die Weltwoche."