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TO OUR READERS.

Wages disputes, which have taken place recently, in the Printing Trade, have resulted in an increase of wages and hence the costs of production of the "SWISS OBSERVER" have once again increased in accordance.

This is perhaps an appropriate moment to remind our subscribers that, although time after time, wages and cost of paper have considerably increased since pre-war days, such increases have never been passed on to our readers, and the price of the "SWISS OBSERVER" is still exactly the same as in 1939.

This has been possible through our advertisers giving us their generous support, and through some of our supporters having increased their annual subscriptions by donations, which we herewith gratefully acknowledge.

Whilst we do not intend to increase our subscription, we would like to make a fervent appeal to all our supporters to procure for us new readers, and thus help us to meet the increased costs of production. We shall be pleased to forward specimen copies of the "SWISS OBSERVER" to all addresses which are given us. On your support depends the existence of our paper which for the last 26 years has rendered many services to the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.



NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Nothing official has yet been published about the result of the negotiations with the secretariat of the UNO as regards the use of the former Palace of the League of Nations at Geneva. Unofficially it is stated in the press that the matter is still under consideration by the Federal Council. While the United Nations Organisation would naturally be welcome on Swiss soil its activities would have to be subject to certain guarantees; the stipulation that no preparations for or operations of a military character would be conducted from our territory would remain a *sine qua non*.

The issue of a new Federal loan of 400 million francs is announced; half will run for 12 years at 3% and the other half for 25 years at 3 1/4%.

The preliminary figures of the total Federal budget for 1947 exhibit a deficit of over 330 million francs — a slight improvement on the likely outcome of this year's accounts.

Cantonal

The "iron lung," recently lent by the American army command in Frankfurt, has after a short use proved to be so beneficial and even vital in the efficient treatment of infantile paralysis that the canton Zurich has ordered two apparatus from America. They will be housed in the children's clinic at Zurich and be at the disposal of hospitals throughout the canton.

Another two iron lungs have been ordered by the Swiss Red Cross; one will be stored, and released as required, at Berne and the other one at Lausanne.

An unusual decision was taken at Ebnat by the votes of the people especially assembled for that pur-

ROYAL VICTORIA HOTEL

ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA

(Extract from the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung.")

"The Swiss Students staying in England celebrated their National Independence by beginning in earnest at the best Hotel in the South of England, namely, the Royal Victoria Hotel, St. Leonards-on-Sea, in Sussex. In this Anglo-Swiss establishment a warm welcome was extended to the visitors.

During the excellent dinner, music of Tchaikowsky and Mozart was played by the orchestra, which, after the dinner with versatility switched to dance music and Swiss tunes and dances; English guests succeeded in dancing in the Continental style and all enjoyed themselves.

Greetings were exchanged between the two oldest democracies over the microphone.

It is quite clear that the Swiss are welcome guests in the United Kingdom."