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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Switzerland has entered the field of atomic research, called nuclear physical research in scientific circles, and will spend an annual amount of one-million francs for this purpose under a decree submitted by the Federal Council to our two houses of parliament. It is stressed that we shall never make atomic bombs and that the subsidy is intended only for research for peaceful purposes.

* * *

Negotiations are in progress for establishing a radio station for the exclusive use of UNO; suitable ground has already been selected.

* * *

Federal Councillor Stämpfli pronounced an unequivocal protest against the constant innuendos that our country had derived profit from the war, adding that the Allies were incorrectly informed about our economic conditions. Here is part of an inspired article which appeared in the "Daily Telegraph," December 20th:—

"Steps will shortly be taken to bring pressure to bear on countries which were neutral during the war to contribute towards the cost of economic rehabilitation in the war-shattered areas. This is in keeping with the suggestion made by Mr. Dalton when he was in Washington.

He then said that countries such as Switzerland, Argentina and Sweden, which enriched themselves, or, at any rate, did not suffer economically, as a result of the war, should now aid such countries as Greece. Her economics had been shattered through Axis attack and occupation.

I understand that the procedure will be for "beggar" countries to be told to apply for help to neutrals. Their applications will receive the full support of the British and United States Governments."

Cantonal

Dr. Adolf Suter, since 1922 President of the District Tribunal in Schwyz, died, following an apoplexy, at the age of 65; he has been for nearly twenty years a member of the Ständerat over which he presided in 1944.

* * *

Half a million francs worth of damage is said to have been caused by a fire which broke out early on December 19th in a large warehouse in Zollikofen, near Berne, belonging to Chs. Gartenmann & Co., A.G. The main loss consists in the partial destruction of a consignment of 25 truck loads of sugar.

* * *

The "Daily Graphic," December 14th, brings a story to which a few grains of salt would not do any harm. Here it is:—

"A £500 brain operation carried out in Switzerland on urgent orders from the British Government was performed on a British Secret Service woman who is now receiving medical treatment in England for injuries received at Ravensbrück concentration camp.

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