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FINANCIAL NEWS AND STATISTICS.

Our readers will doubtless be interested to know some financial results of Switzerland's principal Staat's institutions for the year 1940:

Federal Railways: From 1st. January to 30th November,

	<u>1940</u>	<u>1939</u>
Total Receipts:	Fr. 360,503,825.-	Fr. 322,905,804.-
" Expenses:	" 208,336,324.-	" 194,404,503.-
" Excess	" 152,167,501.-	" 128,501,301.-

Postal Administration:

Total Receipts:	" 128,790,309.-	" 136,051,379.-
" Expenses:	" 118,469,319.-	" 121,370,147.-
" Excess :	" 10,320,990.-	" 14,681,232.-

From the above (Post only) an amount of Fr. 2,257,990.- is to be written off against Debt service, Amortisation, etc. The respective figure for the Railway has not been published.

Telegraph & Telephone Administration:

Total Receipts:	Fr. 129,374,874.-	Fr. 125,604,557.-
" Expenses:	" 63,920,951.-	" 61,534,361.-
" Excess :	" 65,453,923.-	" 64,070,196.-

Debt service, Amortisation, etc., on the above amounts to Fr. 49,872,923.-

<u>Federal Customs Dept.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1939.</u>	<u>1938.</u>
<u>Total Income:</u>	(in thousand Francs)		
1. Quarter	71,279	63,276	57,163
2. " "	71,782	82,142	69,902
3. " "	43,146	69,217	68,230
October	13,161	26,569	23,154
November	11,361	31,931	21,160
1st. January to 30 Novr.:	210,729	273,135	239,609

Import & Export Trade: 1938. 1939. 1940.: 1938. 1939. 1940.
(in Million Francs)

	<u>Import:</u>			<u>Export:</u>		
1. Quarter	399,9	398,3	613,6	306,3	329,8	330,8
2. Quarter	381,4	464,3	580,2	312,1	340,8	306,9
3. Quarter	397,4	403,8	251,1	313,8	293,3	291,9
October	145,6	171,5	119,2	134,0	94,6	129,3
November	131,1	227,4	139,2	126,0	110,8	123,7
Total Jan./Nov. ..	1455,4	1665,3	1703,3	1192,2	1169,3	1182,6

Import Excess January/November: 1938: 263,2 Million Fr.
1939: 496,0 " "
1940: 520,7 " "

The excess of the importation - over the exportation - value has increased very heavily. This is to a large extent due to the increase of prices in all commodities. The all important problem (apparently still unsolved) still remains the steady flow of importation of raw-materials. This is made almost impossible through transport difficulties on land and sea, or/and the complete loss of oversea buying markets. These raw-materials represent the gravest problem of Switzerland, as it is not only essential to maintain the export of manufactured goods, but it brings also widespread employment to the returned soldiers. The authorities are constantly endeavouring to conclude trade treaties, both with Britain and the Axis Powers.

The cost of living, according to the New York "Schweizer-Zeitung", has increased as follows in various countries:

U.S.A.	Nil	Sweden	15.2
Germany	4.7	Finland	20.5
Bulgaria	7.0	Norway	24.3
Portugal	7.5	Danemark	30.6
Hungary	9.8	Rumania	33.9
Switzerland	10.8	Yugoslavia	42.2
England	14.8		

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COLLECTION FOR SWISS SOLDIERS.

Since our last publication in the December issue, the following compatriots have made further substantial contributions towards this worthy cause:

Miss Emmy Hoernlimann, Wellington; Mr. F. X. Nolly, Stratford, and Mr. J. Walder, Thames.

Woollen Garments: Further woollen knitwear have been donated by Miss E. Hoernlimann and Mrs. E. Goacometti.

It is planned to make a second shipment to Switzerland comprising the above and previous goods received, via the Swiss Legation at Washington, at the end of April. Further contributions before that date will be gladly accepted by Mrs. Helen Schmid, c/o, Consulate of Switzerland, P.O. Box 386, Wellington.

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MEMBERSHIP.

With pleasure we can publish the enrolment of the following compatriots as new members of our Society:

Mr. Alois Muller, 86, Kent Terrace, Wellington.

Miss E. Hoernlimann, c/o. Misses Mills, "Willowbank", Port Chalmers.

Mrs. L. Ray, c/o. Mrs. Stitchbury, Lowry Bay, Wellington.

Mr. Alois Fischlin, Rutherford Rd., Waihou.

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The Swiss Community in New Zealand is always gratified to hear of one of our number excelling in War efforts, to help our adopted country, N.Z. Miss Germaine Cattin, Te Kauwhata, has really shewn what can be done. She has certificates in First Aid with Honours, Home Nursing Certificates, and Air Raid Precautions Certificate. We applaud her efforts and feel that with work like this she reveals her wish and echoes our hopes for preparedness in these troubled times and readiness to help at all times.

(L. Ding).

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OBITUARY NOTICES.

A very keen member of our Society and no less keen reader of our "Helvetia" writes:

..... Now, to turn to the Obituary notes. I see there died at Stratford one Phillip Stoffel. I think I met him when I was in Taranaki about 25 years ago. I know he belongs to Graubunden.

But as far as Johann Butler is concerned, I knew him much better. I met him first in October 1909 in A. Aargau. I was cheesemaker in his village. Most of my spare time was spent with the Butlers. There were several brothers and father and mother, and they were a very lovable family, highly respected throughout the whole district. They were farmers, and I remember Hans Butler coming home from New Zealand to claim his bride and take her back to N.Z. Practically on the last day of his stay at home, I resolved to accompany him to this country. We were a party of about 17 young Swiss to depart from Switzerland on the 9th. Novr. 1909, and Hans Butler was our leader and was loved and respected by every one. I feel very sorry for his family in Taranaki and at home. Knowing him and his as I did, I feel much more keenly about it all.

Again I read in the "Zealandia" (N.Z. Catholic Newspaper) that Paul Zimmermann has died in Taranaki, - another very fine