

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 6 (1940-1941)
Heft: 9

Rubrik: Swiss news summary

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"We wish to be one united nation of brothers; we will never be divided in any distress or danger. We will be free as our fathers were. We will die rather than live in slavery."

After the performance of the Ruetli scene follows one speech only - that of the President of the Confederation. The National anthem will conclude the proceedings, and as these will be broadcast over the National Link-up, all Swiss at home and abroad will be able to attend the celebrations in spirit and renew the union of 1291 in their own hearts.

Meanwhile we will celebrate together the 650th anniversary of the existence of our Confederation by doing our duty with unswerving loyalty, going about our work cheerfully and carrying out our daily task in the service of our country. For the Ruetli fire must not burn bright only on the great festival days of our land. It must burn steadily in the hearts of each one of us Swiss and shed its warm and peaceful light every day on each fresh task and sacrifice."

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SWISS NEWS SUMMARY

During the present session the National Council has held a debate on the question of food and raw material supplies. Federal Councillor Stampfli read a report on the position of food rations and intimated that cheese supplies at the end of February this year were larger than at the same time last year. He stated that sufficient potatoes and vegetable supplies would be forthcoming to carry Switzerland over to next winter. The necessary steps would be taken to lower the price of fodder.

On March 27th 1941, an agreement facilitating trade relations between Switzerland and Spain was signed in Madrid by the Spanish Foreign Minister Suner and Professor Keller, Delegate of the Federal Council. The liquidation of Bank Clearings was also signed and the commercial delegation then left for Lisbon to resume trade negotiations there.

The Swiss War Food Office announced on March 19th that owing to the very strong and continuous north wind (Bise), the soil had been badly dried up and that it was essential that farmers should roll the surface of the soil and thus allow the water to rise to the roots of the young plants.

The same Department announced that as from April 14th the price of bread will be increased by four centimes. Thus the kilogram will cost 52 centimes instead of 48 centimes. Since the outbreak of war the price of bread has increased by 9 centimes.

The Federal Council has also decided to raise the price of beer from 6 to 12 centimes per litre; the new price will be in force as from April 1st.

MEMBERSHIP :

We welcome the following new member:

Mr. John Schneiter, c/o.P.O. HAMILTON.

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