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The Swiss Observer

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EDITORIAL.

We wish to thank the many correspondents for their expressions of appreciation in our endeavour to maintain the regular publication of the S.O. in spite of the heavy loss of sales owing to mobilisation and the cancellation of advertising contracts. We appeal to our readers for their co-operation; there are many items of personal news coming to their knowledge which are of interest to the Colony and should be recorded in our columns.



NEWS AT RANDOM

A war-time railway guide came into operation on October 8th and shows very little reduction of the normal services.

* * *

About ten thousand compatriots from abroad have so far arrived in Switzerland — far less than was originally anticipated. It is now officially stated that Swiss residing abroad will be discouraged from returning unless personal reasons of livelihood make it desirable. The army command has granted dispensations freely so as to enable those holding positions in the country of their adoption to resume their former sphere of activity.

* * *

The import of petrol (Benzine) has so far not suffered any interruption and it is officially denied that a large consignment has been confiscated by one of the belligerents.

* * *

Zurich has already spent Frs.810,000 on air raid precautions and the expenditure of a further sum of Frs.130,000 has become necessary to complete the scheme.

* * *

Due to urgent demands by consumers the original rationing of coal has been considerably eased. The coal merchants are now authorised to deliver up to half of their actual stock; previously their holdings could not be reduced by more than 25%.

The Federal Council has limited the broadcasting of news bulletins to forty minutes per day, i.e. ten minutes for each of the four daily broadcasts. It has now been found that there is not sufficient genuine news available unless foreign items are unduly elaborated. A reduction of the allotted duration will probably be decreed.

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The seasonal inundations in the Zurich Oberland have caused damage to public and private property to the tune of ten million francs.

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With a view to preventing the leakage of military information the Federal Council has prohibited the export and sale of all maps and illustrated tourist guides. In the ban are also included photographs and private picture postcards depicting the topography of frontier regions.

* * *

The former Polish President Moscicki has with the consent of the Federal Council taken up his residence in the canton Fribourg; he acquired Swiss nationality as far back as 1908. In 1892 he was lecturing at the Fribourg university on natural history and chemistry.

* * *

The distribution of leaflets eulogizing the policy of the Soviets led to the discovery of a secret communist organisation in La Chaux-de-Fonds; a number of arrests have been effected. Communism is prohibited throughout the canton of Neuchâtel.

* * *

The endeavours of our national economy departments to increase the output of agricultural produce in order to reduce our dependency on imports have been crowned with very gratifying results. During the last 25 years or so we have become practically self-supporting as far as meat, potatoes and butter are concerned and we are to-day much better prepared in the economic field than in 1914. The following comparative figures represent the percentages of the total consumption :

	1911	1938
Wheat	19%	37%
Potatoes	87	97
Meat (all)	74	97
of which		
Beef	72	97
Pork	79	98
Mutton	35	95
Poultry	32	48
Eggs	50	64
Butter	72	99