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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR P F BOEHRINGER

# The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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## **NEWS AT RANDOM**

Bad weather failed to mar the impressiveness and solemnity of the funeral of the late Federal Councillor Motta which took place yesterday week at Berne. The cortege was preceded by a cavalry troup and from the immense number of wreaths only those from the Federal Council, the canton Ticino and the commune of Airolo were placed on the coffin, the remainder being carried by soldiers. The service in the Dreifaltigkeitskirche was conducted by Monsignore Franziskus von Streng, bishop of Basle, and was followed by a stirring address from Federal President Pilet-Golaz. A small circle amongst whom were the widow and his ten children and the members of the Federal Council witnessed the internment at the Bremgartenfriedhof in a large family grave presented by the Bernese authorities. — During the time of the funeral all the church bells in the canton Ticino were tolling.

The gross takings of the Federal Railways for the year 1939 amount to over 358 million francs against expenses of about 212 million; the surplus of 146 million compares with 39 million for the twelve months to end of December 1938.

By a decree of October 1936 the cantonal authorities of Geneva were empowered to forbid the opening of new shops if in their opinion aesthetic considerations or the existence of a similar shop in the immediate neighbourhood made the new venture undesirable. The validity of this cantonal law has now been tested by an appeal to the Federal Tribunal with the result that it has been declared unconstitutional, and abrogated.

Further particulars have now been published dealing with the evacuation of certain towns in case of emergency but the army command points out that this does not indicate any new danger or a changed outlook; these plans are now completed and it is considered desirable that they should become common knowledge. Some of the instructions are very comprehensive such as that domestic animals must be let loose, gas and water mains turned off and doors of houses left unlocked.

A new law in the canton Ticino makes it compulsory for all medicos, veterinary surgeons, dentists and chemists exercising their profession within the canton to have sat for their degrees at one of the Swiss universities.

\* \* \*

The St. Gall Education authorities have addressed a circular letter to teachers and school officials notifying them that complaints have been received about the bad-mannered and disrespectful behaviour of pupils under their charge.

In order to facilitate trade relations between the Zones and the Geneva district, pass control offices have been established in Annemasse and Gex; so far applications for visas had to be addressed to Lyons, the nearest Swiss Consulate.

\* \* \*

The second instalment of the military exemption duty (Militärsteuer) for the year 1939 is due on February 1st and must be paid within 30 days of receipt of demand note. The cost of postage and a small fee are added to the original amount where further applications have to be made.

\* \* \*

A reduction of 12% on the amount of the licence is offered to car-owners in Basle on condition that their cars are kept in service for the whole of the twelve months.

\* \*

Dr. E. Gagliardi, professor at the University of Zurich, died after a prolonged illness at the age of 58. He is the author of many works dealing with the history of Switzerland and illustrious compatriots of recent generations.

### CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

#### L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi le 6 Février à 6.30 h. précises au Restaurant PAGANI 42, Great Portland Street, W.1.

#### ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.

Décision concernant les fonds suisses du Club House Fund.

Admissions. Démissions.

Divers.

Le souper est facultatif et les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 2321/2). Le Comité