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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

The trade agreement between Great Britain and our country has now been agreed to and signed after seven months of delicate negotiations; it comes into force at once. No particulars are available apart from a general statement that the import and export of certain commodities are subjected to a rigorous government control and will be limited to our needs in normal times.

The whole of our country with the exception of a few frontier districts was blacked out from Thursday evening till Saturday morning last week for the purpose of an air-raid rehearsal. All traffic, including the railways, was temporarily suspended and the precautions were tested by air-raid warnings.

The Federal Council has issued a decree forbidding the display or wearing of foreign banners, flags or symbols for the duration of the present mobilisation.

For the purpose of consolidating the floating debt a five-year loan of 15 million francs has been obtained by Geneva from a banking syndicate. The loan will carry four per cent. interest and will be offered for public subscription at 96.70.

A change in the cantonal constitution is proposed by the St. Gall Regierungsrat to the effect that in future only three of its members may accept a mandate in the National Council; at present they occupy four seats.

The issues of the " Berner Tagwacht " and " Die Nation " (Zurich) elaborating the espionage charge against Lt.-Colonel Dr. Hans Trüb, have been confiscated by order of the Army Command.

In Baselland arrangements are being made to enlist the school boys for the agricultural work which owing to mobilisation would be neglected. The youngsters will enjoy free station and receive a daily allowance of 50 cts.

In a communication from a military source it is stated that there is evidence of rumours being put into circulation by some foreign agency.

A large tract of woodland has been destroyed by a fire which aided by the Föhn broke out in the forest between Brunnen and Gersau.

Altdorf is in need of a new girls school building which is to cost just over Frs.300,000 but the electors negated the proposal by a three to one majority; the opponents maintain that a municipal air raid shelter should have preference.

Zurich has lost three millionaires during the last year. According to official statistics just published there are only 358 out of a total of 202,377 taxpayers; the leading Croesus paid Frs.690,413 in communal taxes.

The movement against the so-called fifth column is often followed by truthless repercussions. Several prominent citizens who for business, professional or family reasons stayed for a short time on the other side of the Rhine have been denounced. Apart from the supervision exercised by the army command the frontier cantons are tightening the control of the foreigners and " tourists." In St. Gall, societies consisting chiefly of foreigners cannot meet without the previous permission of the police and the names of the speakers have to be notified. Amongst the 19,000 foreigners in Basle there are a good few thousand German maids; they will be expatriated. While Swiss newspapers generally are prohibited from taking sides the " Deutsche Zeitung," printed and published in Switzerland and reputed to be the organ of the German colony, is indulging without fear or hindrance in offensive attacks on the Allies.

It is stated that about 320 factory workers are daily crossing the frontier from Constance and neigh-

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

### L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi le 7 Mai à 6.30 h. précises au Restaurant PAGANI 42, Great Portland Street, W.1.

#### ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal. | Démissions.  
Admissions. | 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

bourhood into the canton Thurgau where they are employed in near-by factories.

Several arrests have been made in Solothurn and Geneva of people who will be charged with starting or disseminating false rumours.

No great hurry and enthusiasm is displayed by the Basle property owners to install the air raid shelters decreed by the local authorities. These shelters, about 4,000 for the present, are to be erected in houses selected by the town surveyor and are estimated to cost between Frs.1,000 to Frs.2,000, against which the municipality will grant a subsidy of 40%. The remaining 60% will have to be borne by the owners and tenants.

At the General Meeting of the Swissair, in Basle, the accounts for last year were approved; the balance sheet closes with a loss of Frs.5,978 against a profit of Frs.12,838 for the previous period.

The first foreign war plane landed in Switzerland early last Sunday week. It was a twin-engined Bomber Dornier 21 which circled over Basle signalling his intention to land. The searchlights of the airport were put into operation and large crowds in the streets witnessed the strange spectacle. The plane is stated to have come from the north of Germany and the reason for the forced landing is said to be loss of direction (!) and shortness of fuel. A caricature of the

First Lord of the British Admiralty adorned the side of the machine which was, of course, taken care of by the Swiss Army command whilst the flight lieutenant and the crew of three were interned.

The director of a so-called school for parachutists in Basle has been sentenced to five months imprisonment and an accomplice to three months. Through newspaper advertisements they found a few dare-devils who paid Frs.500 each for a course. After they had obtained a certificate of efficiency the pupils were to be organised into a travelling troupe to give exhibitions at all the principal airfields; on account of its novelty this was held out as a very lucrative undertaking. Further money had to be paid for the equipment of this aerial expedition which is to start operations at some future date.

The northern part of Switzerland is experiencing a chain letter writing craze threatening the breaker of the chain with dire consequences. Warnings have been issued by the police in order to stop this imposition.

### THE MOBILISATION ORDER IN CASE OF SURPRISE ATTACK ISSUED ON APRIL 18th BY THE FEDERAL COUNCIL AND ARMY COMMAND (German text).

#### *Kriegsmobilmachung bei Ueberfall.*

“ Der Bundesrat und das Armeekommando halten es für notwendig, die nicht unter den Waffen stehenden Wehrmänner mit denjenigen Massnahmen bekannt zu machen, die bei einem Ueberfall auf unser Land durch eine feindliche Macht vorgesehen sind.

Bei Kampfhandlungen an der Grenze oder im Landesinnern wird die “ Kriegsmobilmachung bei Ueberfall ” angeordnet. Die Bekanntmachung erfolgt alsdann durch Plakatanschlag, Radio, Kurier, Ausruf, Sturmglocken, Abwurf des Plakats durch Flieger.

Im Falle einer “ Kriegsmobilmachung bei Ueberfall ” haben sich sofort zu stellen:

1. Sämtliche Wehrmänner, vollständig ausgerüstet und bewaffnet:

a) Urlauber, bei ihrem Stabe oder ihrer Einheit, die sie auf dem kürzesten Wege, mit irgendwelchem Mittel zu erreichen haben;

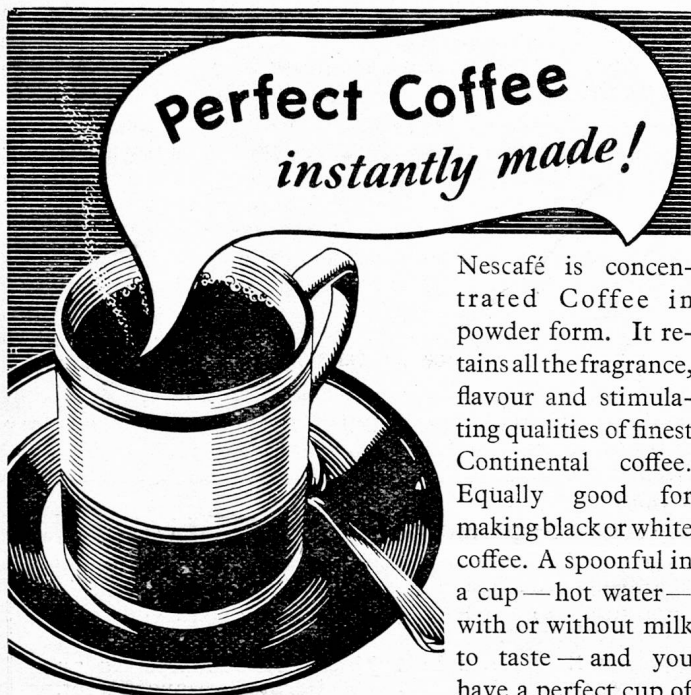
b) Auf Pikett entlassene Wehrmänner auf ihren Korpsammelpätzen;

c) Mobilmachungsfunktionäre, das Personal des Munitionsdienstes, die Organe des Flieger-Beobachtungs- und Meldedienstes, die Organe des passiven Luftschutzes, die Mineur-Detachements auf den ihnen bekannten Sammelpätzen.

Die den Stäben und Einheiten der Feldarmee sowie den Heeresanstalten zugeteilten Hilfsdienstpflichtigen und die Formationen des bewaffneten Hilfsdienstes auf ihren Korpsammelpätzen.

Sollte dies nicht möglich sein, so begeben sich alle diese Wehrmänner und Hilfsdienstleute auf den nächstgelegenen Korpsammelpatz, wo sie sich melden.

2. Unbewaffnete Hilfsdienstpflichtige gemäss dem in ihrem Dienstbüchlein enthaltenen Mobilmachungszettel.



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