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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

The Council of States has decided to adopt the extension of the import limitations until the 30th of September, 1922, instead of the 31st March, 1923, as proposed by the Federal Council. The National Council adopted the same decision by 67 votes to 51.

\* \* \*

The National Council adopted by 104 votes to 58, with 12 abstentions, the provisional tariff with the recommendation to the Federal Council to study, when preparing a new general tariff, how best to reconcile the interests of the different economic groups. Forty-four councillors spoke on this item.

\* \* \*

The Federal Department of Police Justice has issued an appeal to the Swiss population neighbouring on Germany. The appeal exhorts the Swiss, if passing the frontier, to consider the situation of the German population and not to abuse unduly the advantages they enjoy owing to the high value of the Swiss franc. Should the grave abuses, which have been pointed out over and over again by the press, continue, measures will be taken to abolish entirely the so-called "small frontier traffic." A similar appeal has been issued by the St. Gall Government with a view to putting an end to such abuses in the Vorarlberg.

\* \* \*

A joint interview which several press representatives had recently with the Director of the Federal Labour Office, Mr. Pfister, revealed the great sums which the Confederation has hitherto spent to fight unemployment, viz., unemployment relief, 14 million francs; subsidies to the unemployment funds, 2,7 million francs; training courses for the unemployed, 22,800 francs; subsidies to Federal officials, 1½ million francs; subsidies to Swiss back from abroad, 2 millions; subsidies to Swiss abroad, 1 million; subsidies to members of learned professions, 1½ millions; subsidies for the housing scheme, 250,000 francs; subsidies to the Association of Industrial Agriculture and Interior Colonisation, 50,000 francs; relief work and the fostering of the private housing industry, 60 millions; mortgages, 12 million francs.

\* \* \*

The referendum on woman suffrage in the Canton of Geneva resulted in a large majority against this innovation, the figures being about 14,000 to 6,000. The controversy

was a very lively one, and the anti-suffragists found considerable support amongst the fair sex. Geneva is thus the fifth canton to refuse women the vote.

\* \* \*

In connection with the fifth "Swiss Week," which is to take place between the 15th and 29th of October, a Swiss entertainment will be given in the "Kaufleuten" at Zurich. Works of Swiss composers and poets will be played and read by Swiss musicians and reciters. Amongst the artists responsible for the programme are: Hans Huber, Hans Jelvoli, Lisa Haemig-Burgmeier, Dr. Robert Faesi, Hedwig Fassbaender, Dr. S. Steinberg, and Jakob Bürrer.

\* \* \*

The new Central Committee of the Association of the Swiss Press consists of Dr. Weber, Basle, President; Mr. Grellet, Berne, Vice-President; Dr. Steinmann, Berne, Treasurer; Dr. Mohr, Secretary. The Committee decided definitely to adhere to the Federation of Intellectual Workers. It was also decided to resume international relations with the foreign press, and that it should be endeavoured, with this end in view, to revive the Union Internationale.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Popular Library has published its first report on the years 1919 and 1920. It would appear from it that this institution, which was founded in 1919 with a view to centralise efficiently the efforts tending to the development of the Popular Libraries in Switzerland, has already been very busy. The bulk of the works in the Library consists of the former Swiss Soldiers' Library, which contained 30,000 volumes. The Swiss Popular Library is subsidised by the Confederation, Cantons and the Communes. One reckons on an annual income of 120,000 frs.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Congress for Women's Interests at Berne proved a big success. More than 1,400 congress tickets were issued. Amongst the various orators were: Miss Schaffner, Basle; Miss Dr. Fässler, St. Gall; Miss Dr. Ottiker, Zurich; Mrs. Steiger, Küssnacht; Miss Valli, Bellinzona; Mrs. Merz, Berne; Mrs. Staudinger, Zurich; Mrs. Bleuler-Waser, Zurich; Mrs. Dr. Olivier, Lausanne; Mrs. Fathio-Naville, Geneva; Mrs. Gerhardt, Basle; and Miss Gourd, Geneva.

\* \* \*

A resolution of the delegates of the Swiss Peasants' Union has caused some angry comments in the Swiss press. The resolution said that, should there be a revision of the custom duties in a manner unfavourable to the peasants' interests, the latter would "take measures which would mean the beginning of serious fights in our public and industrial life." As is revealed in an article by Dr. Laur, this means, in the first instance, that the Peasants' Party would counteract the extension of the Assurance scheme (Invalidity, Old Age, and Bereaved Assurance scheme).

\* \* \*

Dr. Laur, the Swiss Peasants' Union Secretary, defends