

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Band: - (1941)
Heft: 984

Vereinsnachrichten: To our subscribers

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: Clerkenwell 2321/2.

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD ST., E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 23—No. 984.

LONDON, JANUARY 25th, 1941.

PRICE 3d.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Once again after a prolonged interval we make our bow to our indulgent subscribers. The interruption was due — as most of our friends are aware — to aerial visitations, no less than on four separate occasions, which played havoc with the printing plant of the publisher. The damage has now been temporarily repaired which will make it possible to carry on the printing works in a modest way, D.V. The heavy loss incurred added to the deficiency in vital advertising revenue would have meant the death blow to the S.O. were it not for the patriotic spirited action of a member of the Colony who shoulders the cost of this and the next issue which latter we hope to issue some time next month. We trust by that time to succeed in making such financial arrangements as will insure a regular publication.

We wish to offer humble apologies to the many subscribers who have written to us wondering at the sudden stoppage. It was impossible to answer all the letters — some of them were only disentangled weeks afterwards in the floating debris.



NEWS AT RANDOM

At the beginning of September the Federal Council authorised the Federal corn administration to deliver two hundred waggons of corn from reserves to Millers, against the undertaking that they should not raise the price of bread and flour by more than two francs per one hundred kilos. The measure was intended to help small millers who have been unable to constitute reserves. As from September 15th the price of bread was raised by two centimes per kilo loaf.

On the 30th August the Bund stated that no corn had been imported into Switzerland since the 10th June and that, owing to increased transport charges, the price of the latest imported corn had risen by fifteen francs to forty francs. Till then, thanks to reserves, it had been possible to avoid an increase in corn prices and the release of further reserves will ease the rise which inevitably must come. The price of bread is still lower in Switzerland than in other countries and below the 1914/18 price level.

The decree forbidding the sale of new bread has not lowered consumption to the extent anticipated.

* * *

On the 3rd September the Bund announced that the Canton of Berne has approved a labour creation

programme totalling seventy-five million francs. The report of the cantonal council states that the commission proceeded on the principle that it is undesirable to create emergency work and that it is preferable to create opportunities for employment in existing or projected industrial, agricultural, transport and touristic undertakings where possible, and it is only in the absence of these that unessential public works are being considered. The projects include arterial and alpine roads and bridges, regulating of rivers, rebuilding of public buildings and public utility undertakings, reclamation and drainage of agricultural land and forests.

* * *

Further news is now available about the proposals made by the Union of Swiss Peasants at the beginning of September in a memorandum addressed to the Federal Department for Public Economy. The memorandum urges further rationalising of agriculture which would lead to increased production and wider employment. It points to labour shortage on the land and to the urgent need for reforming living conditions of the Swiss farm worker, notably continuity of employment throughout the year, cheaper dwellings, allotments and better social legislation. It is emphasised that there is need for creating further small holdings, but that an essential condition for this is that production be made worth while. Memorandum stresses discrepancy between costs and prices and that while a self-supporting policy is impossible, Switzerland might produce much that is now imported. It is estimated that the agricultural area might be increased by 250,000 acres and the 404,000 persons at present employed on agricultural work would be increased by another 50,000. The memorandum adds that Swiss agriculture spends 480,000,000 francs

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

la REUNION MENSUELLE

aura lieu Samedi, le 1er Février à 12.45 p.m. au Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, (near Green Park Tube Station).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal. | Démissions.
Admissions. | Divers.

Conférence par
Mons. Giradet, Conseiller de Légation
sur la situation économique en Suisse.

Dejeuner à 1.0 h. précises. Les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Mons. H. Bingguely, 167 Clapham Road, S.W.9 (Téléphone: Reliance 4150).

Le Comité.