

# Speech by the President of the Confederation of Switzerland, Dr. Philippe Etter, on the occasion of August 1st

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Electric heating apparatus in Switzerland, (Lausanne.) The sale of electric heating apparatus developed considerably in Switzerland last year. From 1937 to 1939 the average yearly sale was 130,000 units, but in 1941 it rose to about 250,000. The heating apparatus manufactured and used in Switzerland during 1941 represent a total energy of 391,000 Kw. as compared with 155,000 Kw. in former years.

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New Federal Taxes. (Berne.) National defence and war economy have laid a great financial burden on the Swiss Confederation. At the end of 1942 the war debt will amount to almost 4,600 million Swiss francs, about three times the expenditure caused by the mobilization during the last Great War. The Swiss Federal Government is therefore obliged to find new financial resources. It is thought that this will be found by a new National Defence Sacrifice capital levy, a re-imposition of the National Defence Tax paid on both capital and revenue and finally a higher Turnover Tax to which might also be added a Luxury Tax of 10%.

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SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF SWITZERLAND,  
DR. PHILIPPE ETTER, ON THE OCCASION OF AUGUST 1ST.

The President said that on the 1st August last year, the 650th anniversary of the Federation was celebrated in an unforgettable manner, and Switzerland showed her readiness to remain loyal to the 'confederation of freedom'.

"This year", Dr. Etter said, "we celebrate the anniversary in a quiet, simple way. Federation Day is neither a holiday nor a day of rest. We are working to-day, for we know that our luck to be free citizens of a free nation must be earned by hard daily work. Every Swiss feels in his heart the sanctity of this anniversary. We know that, in this hour, hundreds of thousands of our countrymen in foreign lands and beyond the seas are thinking of the home country, united with us in spirit. To these I send, in the name of the whole country, heartfelt greetings from the Homeland. In a few weeks, three years will have elapsed since the beginning of the war. Since then the nations of the world have had to endure ordeals untold. There is no foreign suffering with which, in our hearts, we do not sympathise - no heroism, no sacrifice, no greatness to which we can deny our respect." He added that, in the midst of warring nations, Switzerland was following her humble task of keeping the light of love burning, and hoped that God would preserve Switzerland as the stronghold of freedom and peace. "We thank our army, which has honourably and loyally been carrying out its duty. In it is embodied the old martial strength of our people and its honest ever-watchful determination to remain independent." On Federation Day the unity between the nation and its army must be proved by deeds. He asked the nation to subscribe as much as it could to a National Contribution for old soldiers and their dependents and the 'Swiss Samaritan', or symbol of Christian charity.

"The longer the war goes on the more do its effects extend to our land. There are more and more difficulties in the way of imports and exports. The difficulty of supplying our land with food and raw materials are felt more acutely every day. I must not withhold from you that further possible developments fill us with grave concern for the future, but the greater the hardship we have to bear, the stronger and more stubborn must be our will to unity. The motto of the first founders of the Federation must be ours also: they swore 'to stand by and help each other'. Where, under the heavy weight of hardship, tension begins to grow, it must, at its very first sign, be surmounted by mutual goodwill, and give place to mutual understanding. We must all, employers and workers, realise how close are the ties which bind us to each other and the extent of our common interdependence. Each one of us must adjust his desires and actions to exigencies of common hardships. Our burden will be easier to bear if we try to distribute it equitably. Don't lend your ears to anyone who tries to sow dissension, despair or discontent in your midst. They cannot help you, but they do a disservice to the country by endangering the internal peace which is a necessary condition of our holding out. From the desire for freedom sprang our union; our will for union will preserve our freedom. Let us, therefore, go on, united through these anxious days; let us continue undaunted on the path of duty, through trial to security.

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