

Switzerland applies bread, milk rations : transport troubles and bars to imports force action

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **8 (1942-1943)**

Heft 4

PDF erstellt am: **29.05.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943062>

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but an empty propaganda slogan. Deeds, not words, must bear out the old Swiss tradition.

The problem of what should be done with refugees who illegally crossed the frontier into Switzerland has been clarified by the Police Department which has issued provisional instructions according to which refugees who entered Switzerland before 13th August - this means the bulk of refugees - are to be allowed to stay, except for those who for grave reasons be considered "undesirable". Nothing has been settled yet regarding refugees who arrived after that date. This matter was discussed at a conference of Lausanne police chiefs yesterday. Today, shortly before noon, an official communique was handed out which stated that an adequate compromise between the commandments of humanitarianism and the inalienable spiritual heritage of Switzerland on the one hand and the safeguarding of the interests of the State on the other, was necessary. To achieve this, the instruction remains that the frontiers cannot be opened to refugees. Should refugees enter the country in spite of this, their cases will be examined individually.

It can be concluded from the words of the Minister of Justice that hardships are to be avoided in these cases. The communique says that for the time being the various authorities will continue the investigation which must serve as the basis for further resolutions.

During a conference at Berne today, the Minister of Justice, Dr. Steiger, gave more information on the refugee problem. He stated that the new police provisional instructions about refugees were mainly designed to warn refugees from Holland and Belgium, as it was considered easier to prevent their departure than to refuse them hospitality once they arrived at the frontier. The regulations about refugees issued by the Bundesrat in 1939, would not be altered, but the Bundesrat had decided to issue a warning, although efforts would be made to avoid hardship. Impossible as it was to open the frontiers to refugees, an adequate compromise would have to be found between the laws of humanitarianism and the safeguarding of the interests of the State.

SWITZERLAND APPLIES BREAD, MILK RATIONS.

Transport Troubles and Bars to Imports Force Action.

Berne, Oct. 10. The long-expected rationing of bread and milk in Switzerland was announced yesterday by the War Ministry's Food Section. Officially the reason given is the "gradual but none-the-less extensive increase in the consumption of both commodities" - a corollary of the scarcity of other rationed commodities.

Even with intensive cultivation, Switzerland produces only 30 to 40 per cent of her bread-grain needs. Transport difficulties bar free import from the United States. (Germany, which has supplied Switzerland with grain, has recently been reported as stopping shipment.)

The bread ration will be about the present average consumption per capita, namely 275 to 280 grams daily. Allocations of dried vegetables will be slightly increased in November.

Regarding milk, Switzerland again owing to transport difficulties, has been forced to reduce her livestock; in some districts the slaughter has now reached 30 per cent or more.

The daily milk ration is expected to be a pint for adult and a quart for children.

The Food Office reported that since August, 1941, no fresh milk has been exported from Switzerland and that cheese exports are at 50 per cent of the 1938-1939 average.

SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

CIVILIAN COAL RATIONS IN SWITZERLAND. Berne. The coal ration for household heating purposes during the coming winter has been established, for the time being, on the basis of 15% of the normal consumption of each household.