

The Swiss Federal Council for 1944

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3. Switzerland transmits food parcels to prisoners of war at an average of 450,000 parcels per month. Due to recent increase in shipments the average must approach approximately 700,000 to 800,000 parcels monthly. The parcels are shipped on Swiss boats under the supervision of Swiss delegates in belligerent countries. On a recent trip from Philadelphia to France the Swiss boat S.S. "Lugano" carried 1,000,000 food parcels for American and Allied prisoners of war. Another Swiss boat due to leave in December will also carry over 1,250,000 food parcels for the prisoners of war in Europe.

4. Through its diplomatic representatives and 97 International Red Cross representatives in 47 countries, Switzerland visits camps of prisoners of war and civilian internees and sends detailed reports to the belligerents. Through these activities Switzerland is checking in every camp, where she represents foreign interests, whether prisoners of war are treated in conformity with the Convention of Geneva of 1929.

5. As a neutral country surrounded by nations at war, Switzerland has received thousands of refugees, and sends to the populations of France, Holland, Greece, Belgium, and other countries food and medical supplies.

During recent events more than 30,000 Italian soldiers and more than 5,000 Italian Jews passed the Swiss border and took refuge in Switzerland. The thousands of refugees in Switzerland, a country which is slightly over 4,000,000 inhabitants, presents a serious problem.

6. Switzerland extends relief to civilians who are not interned but reside in enemy territories. This is the case of thousands of American and British nationals who reside in Shanghai, Hongkong, Manila, etc.

It should be remembered that all the humanitarian activities of Switzerland, including the work of the International Red Cross Committee, are made possible only by the traditionally recognized neutrality of the Government of Switzerland."

NEUTRALITY POLICY REAFFIRMED.

"Our policy of neutrality is immutable. It remains unchanging toward all belligerents without consideration of their war aims or their chances of success. There is nothing conditional about the neutrality of Switzerland; it is absolute. There will be nothing symbolic about it - it will be backed up by force of arms if necessary."

In these words Federal Councillor Karl Kobelt, chief of the Federal Defence Department recently reiterated the energetic stand of Switzerland. "We cannot allow the horrors and miseries of war to hinder us in the accomplishment of duties incumbent on the country in the maintenance of its neutrality. And we will act. We are ready to resist any attack against our independence with the utmost energy, and there can never be and must never be any doubt but that we will categorically reject any demand for passage through Switzerland by troops of a foreign country. Should an attempt be made to force such a passage, we will resist with arms."

THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL FOR 1944.

As already reported in our February issue, the election of the Swiss Federal Council has brought only one change, as Federal Councillor Nobs has taken the place of the former Federal Councillor Wetter. On January the 4th the Federal Council held its first meeting of the New Year. The first item of business was the distribution of the governmental responsibilities amongst the seven members. This was done without the least difficulty and in the simplest way possible. The six re-elected councillors keep all their departments and Mr. Nobs was given the department of finance, which Mr. Wetter had been carrying before his resignation.

The distribution of the departments is therefore as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Head of Department</u>
Economics	Stampfli, President of the Confederation
Foreign Affairs	Pilet-Golaz, Vice-President "
Interior	Etter, Federal Councillor
Justice and Police	von Steiger " "
Defence	Kobelt, " "
Finance and Customs	Nobs, " "
Post and Railways	Celio, " "

SOME OUTSTANDING AMERICAN LEADERS IN THE PRESENT WAR
ARE OF SWISS ORIGIN.

Generals Eisenhower, Eichelberger, Hershey and Edgar Hoover, etc.

(Copied from the Swiss-American Journal, New York, 19 January, 1944.)

The gigantic tasks, which the present World War has imposed upon the American people, has called for superminds. Out of our ranks new leaders have emerged to guide the destiny of the American nation. New names appear on the front pages of our daily papers. It fills the Swiss element in America with pride that some of the outstanding leaders of today are of Swiss origin. We may begin our citations at the very top of the list with -

GENERALISSIMO DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER whose first American progenitor came from Switzerland. Searching through the early ship lists we found that on November 20th, 1741, Johann Peter Eisenhauer, Hans Nicolas Eisenhauer and Johann Isenhauer were passengers on the vessel "Europa", sailing from Rotterdam for Philadelphia, Pa. Imbued with desire for personal freedom, the democratic spirited Eisenhauers left their original home in Germany and settled in Switzerland, where they lived one hundred years before the above-named emigrants departed for the New World.

GENERAL ROBERT LAWRENCE EICHELBERGER, one of the leaders in the Pacific theatre of the present war. We are particularly indebted for information on the Eichelbergers in America and in Switzerland to Edward G. Eichelberger of New York, a cousin of the General. Our Bernese compatriots will be particularly interested to learn that General "Bob" Eichelberger and his ramified relations in U.S.A., of whom many have rendered conspicuous services to this nation, have their rootstock in the Emmenthal, Canton of Berne, where a branch of the family still resides.

A hill northeast of Lützelflüh is called the Eichenberg. In the nearby village of Goldbach members of the family of Eichelberger are still to be found today. According to the Bernese Book of the Family Coats-of-Arms, in which their heraldic coat-of-arms appears, one Daniel Eichelberger became a Burgher of the city of Bern, in 1616. During their temporary settlement in the Palatinate, Philip Friedrich Eichelberger was born, in 1693. Seized by the contagious emigration fever of his time and place, Philip Friedrich Eichelberger joined a group of his friends in their pilgrimage to America. After their arrival in Philadelphia, Friedrich Eichelberger obtained from two brothers of William Penn a grant of land near Lancaster. The original document is still preserved in the archives of Pennsylvania. In the course of time his descendants became prosperous citizens. During the Revolutionary War, his sons embraced the cause of the American patriots and fought bravely on their side. George Eichelberger was delegated from his district to the Provincial Convention held at Philadelphia on January 23, 1776. Grayson Eichelberger served as Secretary of State in Maryland. Col. George Eichelberger was stationed at Fort McHenry during the defence of Baltimore, in 1814. Frederick Eichelberger, son of Col. George Eichelberger, was elected State Senator from York county.

Among our prominent contemporaries we take pleasure in mentioning Clark M. Eichelberger of New York, National Director of the League of Nations Association, and of the Commission to Study the Organisation of Peace.