

Switzerland sponsors music and drama in spite of war

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mentioned that Swiss industrial circles are viewing somewhat apprehensively the efforts made by farming and handicraft circles to obtain definite guaranties in regard to living conditions after the war is over. It is evident that these living conditions must be conciliated with the vital necessities of other branches of national economic life and especially with those of the export trade. In brief, the Swiss export trade can survive only if the difficulties it has to face as regards the national price structure are not too great as compared with other industrial countries. On the other hand, it must not be forgotten that war conditions have resulted in an effective wage decrease for both Swiss workmen and employees. Owing to the fact that wage and salary adaption have not run parallel to that of the increase in the cost of living, postwar price movements cannot be allowed to increase this difference without endangering social peace. The only object of all these measures, Mr. Stampfli continued, is to safeguard Switzerland's economic life. The providing of work for the unemployed by orthodox methods is one of the most important tasks which lies before the government. Disturbances are bound to occur in the postwar period and that is when the problem of the best way of fighting unemployment will arise. Supplementary possibilities of employment according to a program prepared before long will be ready to unemployed labors. Certain plans of this kind, involving an expenditure of 404 million francs for cantonal and municipal authorities and of 656 million for the Federal Government, are already to be put into operation when the time comes. The President of the Swiss Confederation closed his speech by declaring that Switzerland is well ahead in the matter of social welfare and further progress will be realized in this domain as soon as the war is over by the introduction of old age and widows' and orphans' pensions.

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SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR OF 1944.
(22nd April - 22nd May) at Basle.

The Swiss Industries Fair of 1944 will be mainly a technical show. The Swiss machine industry, which has earned a good name all over the world with their quality products, will be very strongly represented by machine tool machinery, woodworking machinery and textile machinery. Furthermore, special machines for the building, baking and butchery trades, together with agricultural and domestic machines, will be shown in large numbers. The electrical industry will be represented by a still larger range of machinery and appliances than last year; while the exhibits for gas, water, boiler plants and transport will be at least as comprehensive and the Swiss watch industry will fill the special watch pavilion to the last inch.

In spite of the extension of the showrooms it has not been possible to accept all the numerous applications to exhibit from the technical industries.

The rest of the Swiss industries will, naturally, not lag behind at the coming Fair. The textile industry and clothing trade, including shoes and leather goods, will be represented by wider ranges than in former years. The exhibits featuring office furniture, business appliances, paper, graphic and commercial art, will be complete, as well as those for home science, applied art, ceramic art, furniture, etc. The book show will present the cultural life of Switzerland.

Swiss Industries and Trade are greatly interested to show to the world their capacity and their wide range of production. The problem of providing work for everybody will be illustrated by a special exhibit, organised by the competent authorities, under the slogan "Work for ALL".

The Swiss Industries Fair of 1944 will therefore be an expression of Swiss determination that her industries and trade shall play their part in the coming New Order of world trade.

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SWITZERLAND SPONSORS MUSIC AND DRAMA IN SPITE OF WAR.

Surrounded by the most cruel warfare mankind has ever seen, landlocked and striving desperately for an ever greater degree of self-sufficiency, Switzerland believes in holding up her chin. Vacations, sports and trips in the scenic paradise that is Switzerland are recommended by the government for both physical and mental relaxation. In addition to this enjoyment of nature's priceless gifts the large number of music-lovers and theatre-goers are still well catered for.

In a distinguished program at the Opera House at Zurich appeared Kirsted Flagstad as Isolde and Brunnhilde, also in the title role of Gluck's "Alceste". The newest Swiss opera: Othmar Schoeck's "Schloss Dürande" had an enthusiastic reception in the same month.

Choice offerings were also a feature of the Zurich Municipal Theatre, among them Hoffmannsthal's allegorical play "Turn".

An interesting Premiere of Fritz Hochwalder's play "Das heilige Experiment" took place in the municipal theatre of Bienne. It relates the tragic story of how the Jesuit Fathers in Paraguay attempted in the 18th century to found a collective state where the uncivilized natives were to be treated in a Christian manner and paid for their labors like human beings. However, this "holy experiment" was frowned upon by the Spanish Crown and the church and could not be carried out.

Excellent new dramatic offerings were moreover enjoyed at Berne, the Federal Capital, and at Basle.

Lucerne, now widely known for its yearly "International Festival Weeks", proved a mecca for all music lovers. Since it has become more and more difficult to secure the support of foreign musicians the program features Symphony Concerts and some recitals.

BURIAL OF AMERICAN AIRMEN IN SWITZERLAND.

The small English Church in Bad Ragaz, where the coffins of the 14 American airmen, killed in air-crashes, were lying, could hardly hold the official representatives and the 75 interned American airmen who arrived to attend the funeral of their comrades.

After a short service the funeral procession proceeded to the cemetery to the tolling of the church bell. The procession was headed by a military band and a guard of honour, followed by the long line of coffins, each covered with the Stars and Stripes, carried by the interned Americans. Then came the representatives of the American Legation, military attaches of many nations, representatives of the Swiss army and a long line of mourners.

The service at the common grave was conducted by the English clergyman and the American Minister read out the names of the 14 victims. The guard of honour fired three salvoes and the sounding of the Last Post concluded the burial and the American interned airmen, led by the military band, marched back to the station.

This event left a deep impression on the Swiss people present and many a silent prayer will have risen to Heaven that our country may be spared the horrors of war.

SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

In a message of gratitude, Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State has expressed officially the appreciation of the American Government for the services rendered by the Federal Council in handling American interests in enemy countries.

A dispatch from DNB from Rome announces the recall by the Fascist republican Government of a number of ambassadors, ministers and other high officials who have remained loyal to the royal Italian Government. Among the dismissed is the Italian minister to Berne, Count Magispati.

The mail service of the International Red Cross in Geneva recently reported the 30 millionth letter mailed from their office. The number of communications received from September 1939 to December 1943 was 29 million. The total of incoming and outgoing Red Cross mail for the Geneva Office is now over 59 million.

The reduction of the livestock necessitated by the precarious fodder situation, had an unfavorable effect on the production of milk. From November 1943 to January 1944 the milk production was from 20 to 25% lower than a year ago. In