

Interesting New Zealand press comments on Swiss matters

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long-term plans. Europe is seriously afraid of starvation. Immediate action is imperative. Although Switzerland took the initiative of approaching Russia, the fact that Moscow imposed no humiliating conditions, not even asking Switzerland for credit, indicates plainly that the Kremlin had the strongest immediate motives for acceding.

Can Resume At Once.

To arrive at an understanding with the Western powers, Switzerland has done all that her constitution and sovereignty allow in aiming to satisfy those powers' demands. Nevertheless, she still is accused of wilfully concealing German assets. By taking no part in the present Washington negotiations and resuming relations with Switzerland at this juncture, Russia shows plainly she does not hold that Switzerland had any design to help Nazi Germany hit back.

Trade between Switzerland and Russia can be resumed immediately.

Russia is ignoring Anglo-American blacklists at a time when the United States actually is lengthening its blacklist of Swiss concerns. The prospect of the scope of trade with Russia in compensation comes as a profound relief. Business with Russia encounters no clearing restrictions, no currency tangles and no risks of monetary depreciation.

At a moment when Switzerland is asked to substantially reduce the export of watches to the United States, Russia has sent Switzerland an inquiry for enough watches to absorb two entire years' export.

Access To Wide Market.

Switzerland also now obtains access to all markets under Russian influence - Finland, Poland, Eastern Germany, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Austria. As these countries form a continuous belt between Russia and Switzerland, customs formalities and transport difficulties do not arise. A Hungarian trade delegation already has arrived at Berne and has begun negotiations. Poland intimated she would be able to supply about 1,000,000 tons of coal a year, which is just one-third of Switzerland's requirements.

To hasten her rehabilitation, Russia aims to establish control of the entire industrial potential of Europe. Recovery would be quickest if an industrial plant worked for Russia where it now stands; that is where skilled labor is available. Switzerland is the only country in Europe whose economic potential is intact. But development along the envisaged course would end unavoidably in a vast Eurasian economic bloc that would be almost self-sufficient. Europe must take that chance because it cannot wait.

INTERESTING NEW ZEALAND PRESS COMMENTS ON SWISS MATTERS.

The following appeared in the "Christchurch Press" on May 27th:
GERMAN ASSETS IN SWITZERLAND.

"Early last year, the Swiss Government entered into an economic agreement with the Governments of Britain, the United States, and France which brought nearer Germany's collapse. Switzerland ceased to export electric power to Germany, and banned the transit of German coal to northern Italy. The agreement went further. It sought, also, to prevent Germany rising aggressively from defeat with the help of funds secreted by the Nazis in Swiss banks. During the negotiations the Swiss had frozen German funds and blocked dealings in foreign currency; and the talks produced an agreement under which the Swiss Government proceeded to survey all German assets in Switzerland and assets held by Swiss for Germans. The accord announced last week by the State Department in Washington issues from this. Though the State Department finds it satisfactory, it gives the Allies much less than they had sought. A decree by the Allied Control Council in Germany last November set up a body known as the German External Assets Committee, and vested in it the ownership of all German assets abroad; but the Swiss Government declined to be bound by

this decree. The "Journal de Geneve" set out the Government's point of view when it said, a month later, that Switzerland "is too conscious of her own sovereignty and independence to agree to the enforcement in her own country of a law which she has not made and which is founded on the rule of force". The Swiss Government objected on another ground.

"The victors" (said the "Journal de Geneve") "will not be satisfied with the recovery of the booty accumulated by the Reich at the time of its precarious victories, and with the sequestration of the property of war criminals and other persons responsible for the conflict. They would go very much further. They would despoil all Germans, whether good or bad, at home or abroad, regardless of whether they served under the National-Socialist regime or whether they fought it at the risk of their lives. Switzerland is unwilling to despoil foreigners who have been her guests for long years who have legitimate savings, like the Swiss people by whose side they have worked in peace. She refuses to confuse, by an intolerable simplification, criminals and good citizens, and will not strike at the same time at Nazi leaders and at those who, like many syndicates, benevolent societies, religious organisations, and brave opponents of Hitler, have exported their capital to Switzerland so that it might not be used to serve the designs of the Fuehrer."

The Swiss view has prevailed. Under the arrangement announced by Washington the Swiss will give up roughly half the property to which the Allies laid claim. During the war, a Chatham House observer commented that, in hoping to bring Switzerland voluntarily into the New Order and the status of a satellite, Germany had under-estimated the moral and mental integrity of the Swiss. Until last week the Western Powers appeared to have made the same miscalculation."

TO THE GLORY OF THE WINES OF SWITZERLAND.

In Switzerland, the vineyard has a history almost as old as the earth that nourishes it. Already during the Roman epoch, vineyards were cultivated in ancient Helvetia.

The wines of Switzerland are as varied as the population and the climate. High up in the mountains, at the foot of glaciers, the climate is nordic, while down in the valleys, in a southern setting along the shores of many lakes is the home of excellent wines: on the banks of Lac Lemane (Lake of Geneva), Lac de Neuchatel and in the warm Rhone Valley of the Canton du Valais, to mention only the largest wine growing regions of Switzerland. Each one of them offers a rich variety of the most exquisite wines, with a different flavor and a different bouquet, without however departing from a close relationship.

Wines of Vaud, Good Humour Wines.

The vineyard of the Canton de Vaud, the largest in Switzerland, is divided into three regions, namely:

The region of "Aigle", on the north shore of the Rhone River. These wines have certain features in common with their neighbour of Valais: warmth, golden reflection, distinctive taste. They are much appreciated by the discriminative connoisseur.

The "Lavaux" is the most important of the "regions Vaudoises". It occupies the eastern half of Lake Lemane and is characteristic for its terraces in a beautiful setting. The warm sunrises to which it is exposed are reflected in the wines of that particular region. One of its leaders is the famous "Dezaley", planted by the ancient Romans.

The "La Côte" extends from Lausanne to Geneva. The landscape is quite different from that of "Lavaux". The country is in a quiet setting of almost feminine lines, and its climate and ground give to the wine a light, agreeable and well balanced character.