

1947 food crisis in Europe seen

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stood their test in many old and new forms, both, in confederation, cantons, parishes and corporations, which are well-balanced between the different tongues, between town and country, there is the confirmation of what a foreigner rightly terms 'the marvel of Switzerland'.

In recent years historians have clearly demonstrated, how deeply Swiss democracy is rooted in the past. In these articles Walo von Greyerz tries to show how the Swiss confederation lives at present in all its diversity. If it be true that the confederate democracy culminates under the cupola of the parliament building, it is no less true that its consistency and constancy are mainly due to its roots reaching deep into the substance of many a venerable yet living form, and into the substance of numerous newer forms of democratic community and are due also to the spirit that lives within.

Though the existing order is, on the whole, described and acknowledged to be the positive result of the Swiss' political spirit, we are keeping in mind that these forms are not created for eternity and that it is incumbent on our time to find and to shape the forms suited to its own spirit and needs. This, then, is the task of our generation and especially of the young. In so doing one will, in good Swiss manner, build up on the existing order; and for this reason these articles may be found suggestive at the beginning of a new epoch."

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SWISS CITIZENSHIP COSTS THOUSANDS.

Twenty-nine Swiss, mostly residents of Germany, have lost citizenship because they were accused of conspiracy against Switzerland's security, A.P. reports from Berne.

In addition, fifty-six persons lost Swiss citizenship in 1945 because they had made false declarations to obtain Swiss nationality or because their conduct was prejudicial to Switzerland.

Loss of Swiss citizenship in many cases is a financial loss. It costs a lot of money to become a Swiss citizen. Government statistics showed that in 1943 in 1,684 cases of naturalization, individuals paid the equivalent of \$361,000 to the communities and \$170,000 to the cantons of their residence.

Individual fees for naturalization vary among the various communities and cantons. The authorities of the communities and of the cantons decide whether citizenship can be granted, but the Federal Justice and Police Department is the final authority. The procedure is long and rigorous.

"We do not want any one to become a Swiss citizen who has worshipped foreign ideologies or has taken an active part in foreign politics," a spokesman of the Justice and Police Department said.

A foreigner must have lived for many years in the community to which he would like to belong, before he can fill out an application for naturalization.

"In the last ten years," said the representative of the Justice and Police Department, "the practice has been not to grant citizenship to a foreigner unless he has resided in one and the same canton for at least twenty years."

In 1945, 814 foreigners with their families, a total of 1,526 persons, were granted Swiss citizenship.

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1947 FOOD CRISIS IN EUROPE SEEN.

Europe's food situation, despite considerable imports from Canada and the United States, will show only limited improvement with the summer harvest and by September will again be critical, a June survey prepared

by the International Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland, disclosed last week.

The report, released by Church World Service, Protestant inter-denominational relief agency of 37 E. 36th St., estimated that in 1947 Europe will need 34 billion tons of cereals, a need which can be only partially satisfied by expected American and Canadian surpluses of 21 billion tons.

The Red Cross report showed the worst famine threat in Europe is in Hungary, where the current daily ration per person is only 800 to 900 calories. In Budapest the average is 600 calories.

Germans and Austrians, a little more than one year after their defeat, are getting 1000 calories a day per person on the average. In the American zone the figure is 1300 calories.

The calorie average in Albania, Finland, Italy, Poland, Greece and Yugoslavia is 1300-1500; in France, Bulgaria and Romania, 1500-2000.

FASCINATING WONDER OF NATURE.

Once more that natural wonder, the Marjelensee, at the foot of the Aletsch Glacier, has disappeared. This phenomenon occurs now and then in the course of several years. A satisfactory explanation has never been given, but it is assumed that at a certain level the pressure of the water is great enough to force itself a way at the lake's bottom, and the water then disappears into the ground underneath. The lake is then fed again by the waters of the Aletsch Glacier and thus "resuscitated", until the process repeats itself.

INCREASE OF RADIO SETS IN SWITZERLAND.

The number of radio sets licensed in Switzerland as of December 31, 1945, approximated 850,000, states the Swiss press. At the end of December 1944 there were 819,502 licensed radio sets. On the basis of the 1945 figure, Switzerland would have one radio for every 5 persons, or 80 sets for every 100 families.

ASPECTS OF SWISS DEMOCRACY.

FEATURES OF THE SWISS CHARACTER.

From time immemorial the Swiss has been used, within the people's economical sphere, to deciding himself upon his fate, be it in the pasture-land corporation, in the parish, canton, or in the confederation. He is not merely one of the state's subjects or even a dependent, but a citizen and as such a part of the sovereign Swiss people. As a rule emperors and kings are understood to be sovereigns; in Switzerland it is the people in its entirety.

The prerogative freely to give, either by show of hands, at the "Landsgemeinde", or at the ballot-box of the ward or parish, the casting vote to his authorities and openly to express his opinion anywhere and at any time, is closely connected with the Swiss character, be it that out of an inborn desire for freedom such privileges were gained and defended through centuries, be it that these rights shaped his character such as it is, self-confident and self-reliant in judgment - the very opposite to gregariousness - that of an independent lover of liberty.

It was during the war, when a Swiss asked a foreigner about his country's opinion of the situation. "That is a truly Swiss question," was the reply, "at home we don't talk about the situation, we look on to what our government does, but with you every citizen is a minister of foreign affairs."

The Swiss' sense of liberty and independence, however, does not only appear in his words. His ways of living are also significant. Just look at the magnificent villages and towns! Is not every Bernese farm a