

# Unser Fahneneid lautet

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The Swiss Society for Folklore has been collecting for many years, old and new songs all over the country, which have been carefully deposited in words and tunes in the archive for folk songs. This archive contains today the almost unbelievable number of 26,463 folk songs, yet the collection is not complete. There are still some to come from the Emmental and the Puschlav and the well-known lute-player and singer Hanns in der Gand is collecting the songs sung by our soldiers on active service.

The skiing associations of Sweden and Switzerland have agreed to exchange outstanding skiers as trainers. The several times champion skier Heinz von Almen from Wengen will go to Sweden for two months to act as trainer and the Swedish jumping champion Sven Salanger and the distance runner Nil Englund will go to Switzerland. Sweden and Switzerland have also arranged an international match at Engelberg.

After two experienced mountaineers in the district of Saas-Fee, in the canton of Valais, had conquered nine peaks of over 4,000m. inside 23 hours, two other Valaisans completed the same feat in 19 hours in ideal weather.

Summer time has ceased on October 5th and Switzerland is back again on Central European time.

Basle observatory reports that October had the highest average temperature in Europe for over a hundred years.

The unusually mild autumn weather has tempted a few fruit trees in some districts to a second blossoming and in some low lying mountain parts rhododendrons (Alpenrosen) are in bloom.

Mrs. Camenzind-Ruegg, from Bad Ragaz, who is 83 years old and blind, has knitted 540 pairs of socks for our soldiers on active service. She recently celebrated her golden wedding.

The death in Lausanne of M. E. Chuard, at the age of 85 years, has been announced. M. Chuard was a former Federal Councillor.

Dr. Frédéric Guyot, a former president of the Geneva Red Cross, has died in Geneva, aged 75 years.

The music director of the town of St. Gallen, Hans Heuser has died at the age of 50. He has composed several marches well known throughout the country.

The one time world champion pistol shot, John Revilliod, died at Nyon on the lake of Geneva, in his 75th year, as the result of an accident. The dead sportsman, who was also a very good skier and yachtsman, shot his world record at the age of 62.

### UNSER FAHNENEID LAUTET.

Es schwören oder geloben die Offiziere, Unteroffiziere und Soldaten, der Eidgenossenschaft Treue zu halten; für die Verteidigung des Vaterlandes und seiner Verfassung Leib und Leben aufzuopfern; die Fahne niemals zu verlassen; die militärischen Gesetze treulich zu befolgen; den Befehlen der Obern genauen und pünktlichen Gehorsam zu leisten; strenge Mannszucht zu beobachten und alles zu tun, was die Ehre und Freiheit des Vaterlandes erfordert.

### SWITZERLAND'S FOOD.

(*"Economist,"* November 14th, 1942)

After three years of war, the food situation remains, on the whole, satisfactory in Switzerland, thanks mainly to the foresight of the Federal Government, which, as early as 1937, began accumulating reserves of all kinds. There is no abundance, but apart from sugar, rice, edible fats and wheat, imports of which are reduced almost to nothing, foodstuffs are sufficient, though all of them are now rationed. The last three products to come under the rationing scheme were meat, bread and milk.

At the outbreak of the war, there were about 1,711,000 head of cattle and some 881,000 pigs in Switzerland. Fodder supplies were seriously handicapped by the war and the ploughing up of pasture required by the expansion of agriculture; the severe drought which prevailed from the middle of 1941 in western Switzerland and the continued exports of cattle resulted in an alarming decrease in the national herd. In 1940, the decrease was 17,000 head, and the total fell by 110,000 in 1941 and by another 100,000 by September 30th, 1942, when it was nearly 40,000 below the lowest figure reached in 1918. The meat ration, which had originally been fixed at about 3lb. a month, was twice reduced during the spring and fixed at 2lb; that, however, was found to be still too generous, and, at the beginning of July, the authorities imposed on the population a two-week period of vegetarian diet, which was prolonged and lasted until almost the end of August. These measures, and the foreign demand for cheese instead of cattle this autumn, eased the situation; after falling to 1lb. a month the meat ration has now been raised to 3lb. again. Moreover, meat had to be stored against periods when the supply is low, and modern refrigerating storehouses had to be built. The Government has also issued a decree regulating the sale of cattle, which is now entirely under Government control. Farmers and merchants have to bring their cattle to official receiving centres, where they are valued by purchasing committees and then distributed throughout the country.

Another consequence of the shrinkage of the national herd is the fall in milk production, and, to regulate consumption, rationing is being introduced on November 1st, when each person will receive a minimum daily ration of 4 decilitres (about  $\frac{3}{4}$  pint).

According to reports in Berne last September, Switzerland has sufficient agricultural products for the whole population until next summer, provided there is no wastage. Cereals are, nevertheless, far from abundant, and as imports are practically non-existent, bread rationing has been enforced from October 15th. Each person is allowed a minimum quantity of 225 grammes (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb) of 48-hour-old bread made of wheat, barley, potatoes and other ingredients.

A new appeal has been made to agriculturists to add another 247,000 acres to the cultivated area. The Government recently decided to grant a fresh credit of Frs. 50 millions for land improvements. The area of agricultural land, which has already been increased by 311,000 acres since the beginning of the war, will thus reach the total of 1,100,000 acres which is considered indispensable for assuring the nation's minimum food supplies.