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the honour of the Swiss was tested and proved then and there. How easy it would have been then for them to say that they must haste to join the new order. Their devotion to freedom must be strong and deep. For no ordinary worldly material calculation can account for the behaviour of the Swiss.

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SWISS OUTLOOK 1943.

Address of the Swiss Minister in Washington, Dr. Charles Druggmann, in New York, 23rd January 1943.

The following recent address of the head of our Diplomatic Mission in Washington concisely reveals Switzerland's present difficulties of supplies, the discipline upheld in their distribution, the faithfulness of the Swiss people to their democratic tradition, the basic reasons and aspects of Swiss neutrality, and Switzerland's humane obligations, the position of Swiss citizens in the United States, and a warning against misunderstanding and misrepresentations.

This should be profitable reading for our subscribers.

"Three and a half years of world-war lay heavily upon our land. Our supplies are dwindling fast, the struggle to nourish our people and to procure necessary raw materials is severe. Our stony soil notwithstanding all efforts to make it yield more, can by far not produce what we need. Our small fleet carries over the ocean what it gets. Our route of supply resembles indeed a very narrow mountain path between two boulders: blockade and counter-blockade. What have we not undertaken to widen this narrow path!

Negotiations with the belligerent countries are continuously being carried on and though the results seem small, we persist and refuse to be discouraged.

I need not describe the discipline with which all that, thus obtained, is then distributed in our country and how willingly our people help each other. No one must starve in Switzerland and no one complains. Our people know that our fate is a happy one compared with that of other peoples and that we have to be thankful.

For we have kept our most precious treasure intact: our beautiful homeland is ours, free as it always has been and order there expresses the will of our democratic people. No sacrifice is too great for such a result.

And we have been able to keep our historical neutrality for whose guarantee our valiant army is still watching the frontiers, ready to fight against aggression.

Neutrality was and is the necessary condition for the independence of our country. Surrounded by big nations whose languages we share, we would otherwise have had to face annihilation each time war broke out on the old continent.

For this reason neutrality has to be the principle of Swiss foreign policy which has no other aims and aspirations than the protection of our country and its freedom. Our neutrality does not permit of any military alliance with other nations. Are we therefore quite alone? No, neutrality does allow an alliance with humanity and to this ally we stand steadfast.

The more other peoples must suffer because of war, the closer must be the Swiss allegiance to humanity. In this thought our Government looks after the human interests of belligerents. Under the guidance of the Red Cross of Geneva the Swiss people devote themselves to this purpose, sharing gladly their supplies with the war internees, refugees and many foreign children who in our country seek recovery from sickness, starvation and despair.

So we are allowed to think that our neutral attitude is not deserving of disapproval or blame. It cannot hurt the legitimate interests of other countries, who after all have recognized our fundamental right to neutrality at all times. Is it then not rather a reason for friendship?

Yes, we believe we have friends and we trust to have forever the friendship and appreciation of this great country notwithstanding temporary disturbances of economic relations and the many discussions which arise therefrom.

You, my compatriots, have always shown a still more devoted interest to the homeland as the physical difficulties of communication have become greater. Your willingness to help where you can, and in particular to encourage our humanitarian task, have been a comfort. We know that we can count on you always and you know that Switzerland never could or would expect from you anything which would interfere with your loyalty to this country.

But for one fight I make now an appeal to you and all our friends. Let us fight together against misunderstanding and misrepresentation, foes of all good things and all good relations.

What about the future? I think that in the adversities of these times our strength and our decision are growing as grows our love for our country.

I think Switzerland can look ahead with confidence if we Swiss remain united, sure of our rights, firm in our decision. God helping, we can hope for a happier time, when the ideas which our homeland now keeps alive within her narrow frontiers will spread, a time when the ideals of human solidarity, which inspire our beloved and venerable Confederation can thrive, when in a peaceful world Switzerland will flourish. "

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SWISS MILITARY OATH.

Officers, N.C.O's and soldiers swear, or vow, to be faithful to the Swiss Confederation, to give their life for the defence of their Fatherland and its Constitution, never to desert the flag, to observe faithfully the military laws; to obey strictly and immediately the orders of their superiors, to observe strict discipline and do everything possible that is necessary for the honour and freedom of their Fatherland.

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SUNDRY NEWS.

December 17th was the great day in Switzerland when the two Houses of Parliament sat in joint session to elect the high magistrates to whom the guidance and destinies of our country are entrusted for the next twelve months. The main results are of course a foregone conclusion as the elections follow a time-honoured rota and practice.

Dr. Enrico Celio (Ticino) was elected president of the Confederation; a member of the Federal Council of only three years' standing he was fortunate to reach the highest office in an exceptionally short time due to three intervening changes. Though elected at the time as successor to our Foreign Minister, the late Federal Councillor Motta, Dr. Celio is in charge of the Post and Railway department. He is 54 years old, a writer and an accomplished organist.

Dr. Celio's place as Vice-President is taken by Dr. Walter Stampfli (Solothurn); he joined the Federal Council six months after Dr. Celio (replacing Federal Councillor Obrecht) and is the head of the Home Office (Volkswirtschaft). He was born in 1884 and is a leading personality in his canton being closely associated amongst others with the von Roll'schen Eisenwerke in Gerlafingen and the Solothurner Kantonalbank.

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The emoluments of the members of the Federal Council have been fixed at Frs.40,000 p.a. (Frs.32,000 so far) with an extra Frs.3,000 for the President. The scale remains in force for the next five years. The attendance compensation (Taggeld) of National Councillors is Frs.35 per day.

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It has been officially announced that the economic negotiations conducted in London since spring 1942 with an Anglo-American delegation have been interrupted in order to allow the Swiss delegation composed of M. Sulzer, former Minister Plenipotentiary in Washington, and M. Koller, delegate for trade agreements, to return to Switzerland for the end of the year and to report to the Federal Council. Discussions will be resumed after New Year. Certain arrangements have been made provisionally.

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The commercial relations between Germany and our country seem to have come to a standstill. The settlement agreement which expired on December 31st last was extended to January 15th in the hope that the economic talks then pro-