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EIGHT TIMES ROUND THE EARTH. Last year, 5,520 kilometres of cable were added to the telephone system of the City of Zurich, bringing it up to a total of 316,050 kilometres, or eight times the circumference of the earth. The number of telephone subscribers rose from 49,426 to 52,710 and, compared with the population of the City, this means a proportion of one subscriber to every 7 inhabitants, including children.

A WELCOME GOVERNMENT ISSUE: Through the intermediary of banks and saving banks in Switzerland, the Federal Finance Department has issued bonds for the anticipated payment of the capital levy termed "National Defense Sacrifice", which will have to be paid during the years 1945, 1946 and 1947. A welcome feature of these bonds is that they yield an interest of 3% per annum, free of the stamp duty on coupons and the National Defense Tax at source. These bonds are therefore an interesting investment. As a proof of the interest shown by the public in this issue, it may be stated that 110 million francs have been subscribed to date since the end of January when the bonds were issued.

On August 3rd, 1943, the Federal decree according to which the Swiss Federal Council has the right to deprive unworthy Swiss living abroad, who have acted against the interests of the Confederation, of their Swiss citizenship has for the first time been put into effect. Major Leonhard from Basle (living in Frankfort a.M.) and Max Burri, from Lucerne, both previously condemned "in contumaciam" for high treason are from August 3rd no longer considered as Swiss citizens. The Swiss Radio adds that they will thus be prevented from shielding their subversive activities behind the cloak of Swiss citizenship.

Freight and passenger traffic through the Simplon Tunnel has been stopped, and there are only some empty trains running between Brig and Domodossola.

The Swiss ship Maloja has been sunk on September 13th, in the Mediterranean off Corsica. Of the crew of 23, twenty were saved. The cargo, consisting of oil and copra, is lost.

The Municipal Council in Zurich has decided to continue with its policy regarding naturalization. Candidates born in foreign countries will be questioned on civics and must know some Swiss German dialect. Candidates who are more than 60 years of age will not be considered eligible to citizenship.

The Executive Branch of the Zurich City government is proposing to the Municipal Council that a gift of 50,000 Swiss francs be made to the International Red Cross Committee of Geneva.

The 21st day for the Swiss abroad was celebrated on Sunday, August 22nd, in Rapperswil, on the shores of the Lake of Zurich. Mr. de Steiger, head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police, spoke in defense of our political institution and of the Swiss residing abroad. He stated that our most precious possession - our freedom and independence - must continuously be protected against opposing forces of disintegration. The great majority of our people have but one aim, namely, the maintenance of the freedom, independence and neutrality of our country. Mr. de Steiger then spoke about the measures taken by the Confederation to help Swiss citizens living abroad. Due to the war, many Swiss colonies have been found to be in need of help. Finally, he justified the recent legislative measures taken to give the Swiss Government the power to withdraw the citizenship from those who have proved themselves unworthy of our nationality.

The bombing that almost completely destroyed Milan caused no casualty in the Swiss colony there. However, the Swiss school and many buildings occupied by Swiss have been destroyed. For several days, all telephone and telegraph communications between Switzerland and Italy were interrupted.