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DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AND TAX PAYMENTS IN SWITZERLAND.

The Federal statistical department has published some extremely interesting figures showing the extent and present distribution of wealth in Switzerland; these figures are based on data secured by the collection of the capital levy enacted to partly cover the cost of mobilisation (Wehropfer). The total net value of all the property so taxed is 21,645 million francs or 5,071 frs. per head of population. The individual cantons exhibit noticeable variations from the average. Baselstadt leads easily with Frs. 9,573 while the canton Uri is at the bottom of the list with only Frs. 2,073 per head. Above the average are Geneva, Glarus, Zurich, Schaffhausen, Thurgau and the canton Vaud; somewhat remarkable is the fact that Glarus claims more riches than Zurich. The large canton Berne with its vast agriculture is slightly under the average while the "poor" Ticino beats the industrial Solothurn. Appenzell A.Rh. possesses more than twice the wealth of Appenzell I.Rh. Towns with over 100,000 inhabitants average over Frs. 8,300 which is about double the ratio recorded in predominantly rural districts.

The following statement and explanatory notes will give readers an idea how the wealth is divided amongst the population and consequently to what extent this "Defence Sacrifice" (tax towards the cost of mobilisation) is shouldered by the different income groups:

Capital groups S.Frs.	Approximate No. of taxpayers	Total wealth recorded	"Defence Sacrifice" paid
5 - 25,000	232,000	3,2 Milliards	48 millions
25 - 50,000	93,000	3,2 "	48 "
50 -100,000	50,500	3,4 "	50 "
100 -200,000	23,000	3,1 "	53 "
Over 200,000	15,000	8,2 "	290 "

This special capital levy contributed 492 million towards the cost of mobilisation out of a taxable amount of 21,6 milliards francs. 290 million or 60% was paid by only 4% of the taxpayers liable for this tax. These were the people with a capital of over 200,000 s.frs. The same category contains 1563 individuals with a capital of over one million and these 1563 taxpayers alone paid 143 million or nearly 30% of the total collected, whereas their recorded wealth amounts only to about 15% of the total taxable amount of 21,6 milliards.

On the other hand 60% or 232,000 of the taxpayers are in the 5 - 25,000 group and command a recorded wealth of 3,2 milliard of which 48 million tax was paid, that is about 10% of the total "Defence Sacrifice".

Another category are the 93,000 taxpayers in the 25 - 50,000 francs group with a recorded wealth of 3,2 milliards, the same as the 232,000 taxpayers in the 5 - 25,000 group, and they also paid 48 millions or 10% towards the total tax.

The recorded capital of the 50,500 taxpayers in the 50 - 100,000 group is 3,4 milliards, on which they paid 50 million or about 10% of the total tax.

The next group consists of 23,000 taxpayers with a capital of from 100 -200,000 francs totalling 3,1 milliards. This group paid 53 million or again something over 10% of the total capital levy collected.

From this statement it can clearly be seen to what great extend tax payments increase in ratio to capital possessed.

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THE DEFENCE POSITION OF SWITZERLAND.

Our Defence Minister, Federal Councillor Karl Kobelt, addressed on January 24th a conference of Civil Defence Instructors at Winterthur; the following are a few translated extracts from the speech cabled by the correspondent of the "Daily Express", January 26th: -