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Now, peace is at hand. But until a normal peacetime regime has been set up we shall have to surmount many difficulties. In the immediate future urgent tasks demand our attention. A system of insurance for the aged, the widows and the orphans must be achieved. Better protection must be given to the Swiss family. Help must be extended to Swiss citizens having returned home from abroad. Farming legislation must be drawn up and voted. In short, many serious financial and social problems must be studied and solved. During this period of transition, the Swiss people will be called upon to give renewed proof of their political mindedness. I say renewed proof, for full proof was given during the past years of conflict. But the achievement of the past must be equalled and surpassed in the future. Should differences of opinion arise regarding the best solutions to our many problems, these differences of opinion must be ironed out by resorting to legal constitutional means, and in a spirit of peace and harmony. The suffering of other peoples will keep us mindful of the fact that we have no right to become impatient.

Fellow countrymen, all our cares, however great they may be, will not deprive us of a full realization that war operations have come to a close. In the midst of a continent whose future is still veiled in uncertainty, Switzerland is duty-bound to show that a small country has a role to play. Amongst these towering Alps lives a democratic nation. Here the most simple man, whatever his language or his religion, may enjoy all the rights and privileges granted by the constitution. Under the protection of her army, Switzerland has practised during the war a policy of neutrality which has proved its worth across the past centuries. Under heaven's blessing she has escaped the threatening horrors of war. Lord, grant Thy help to this our homeland."

THE END OF HOSTILITIES IN EUROPE -
THROUGH THE EYES OF THE SWISS PRESS.

Now that the war in Europe is over, the Swiss Press, without distinction of party, language or religion, stress the point that the Swiss people, their government, and their army have remained true to themselves in spite of the ever-increasing difficulties of the past six years. In the eyes of the world and of history, Switzerland has withstood the test. The leftist press has taken the opportunity to emphasize that the time has now come to take up with new zeal the manifold problems of social equilibrium and justice, while other papers point out that Europe's recovery will be found in a strengthening of the democratic idea. All articles have as their theme: gratitude, consciousness of responsibility, and duty.

GENERAL PRESS REMARKS.

"Gazette de Lausanne" of Lausanne: "The news of Germany's general capitulation has revived hope all over the world. The monstrous plan of domination and violence, to which Hitler's mind gave birth, has ended in complete failure. The day of justice is now dawning. Everywhere the shackles of bondage have been broken and the subjected people rejoice in their freedom. In this solemn hour, our thoughts turn with gratitude to all those people who have given their life-blood for the liberation of the world. Our thoughts also turn to the unknown soldiers who, to a certain extent, fought for us too, and to all the dead who sacrificed themselves so that the world might be sure of a better future. Our sympathy and respect also go to those who have resisted in the oppressed lands, to all those living in terrorized countries, who have given their lives or have suffered atrocious persecution because of their resolve not to submit to the will of the oppressor. Let us never forget these victims whose unsung heroism is an honour to mankind".

SWISS PRESS REPORTS OF PEACE-DAY CELEBRATIONS IN SWITZERLAND.

"Neue Zürcher Zeitung" of Zurich: "In Zurich, the day of the laying-down of arms was celebrated calmly. Numerous public and private concerns gave full or half day holidays to their employees. The city was gaily decorated with flags, both Allied and Swiss, and the streets were thronged with people in festive mood. Many small children carried paper flags of Switzerland and the Allied Nations. In the evening the Socialist Workers organised two mass meetings. Among others, the City President, Mr. Lüchinger, and National Councillor Meierhans spoke. These meetings adopted the slogan "We want to win the peace".

"La Suisse" of Geneva: "The outburst of joy on Monday which the announcement of the capitulation of Germany produced, was continued on Tuesday because this day had been selected as the day of the official proclamation of the end of hostilities in Europe. Schools were closed; the flags of Switzerland and Geneva were hoisted on St. Peter's Cathedral and all other public buildings, while the streets were gaily decked with flags. The students from the colleges and the University organised a parade and marched to the British Consulate shouting "Churchill Churchill". His Majesty's Consul spoke a few words, and finally as the crowd continued to manifest its joy, he showed them a large picture of the Prime Minister, which produced another burst of cheering. The young people then sang the Swiss National Anthem, followed by "Tipperary".

"Nationalzeitung" of Basle: "Numerous fires were lit on the mountain tops of the French Upper Rhine area of Alsace during the Tuesday night. Late on the Tuesday evening a procession of several thousand people marched from French St. Louis to the Swiss border; in their frantic joy they wanted to cross over into Switzerland. After much pushing, the crowd broke through and many hundreds of people marched into Basle. Alsatian speakers addressed rejoicing crowds in the public squares. In view of the special character of the day, the Swiss border guards did not want to resort to force."

SWISS PRESS LOOKS AHEAD.

"Neue Zürcher Zeitung" of Zurich: "An improvement in Switzerland's supply situation is not to be expected in the near future. This fact has to be made known and stressed. The year 1945, particularly the next few months, will bring the most difficult and most ungrateful tasks regarding our national supply. Our stocks of a number of most essential commodities, such as tea, coffee, rice, vegetables and fats, are dwindling rapidly. Therefore, unpleasant as this statement may be, it will not be possible to increase our food rations in the coming months. This all the more because, through further restrictions, Switzerland has also to contribute her share to the alleviation of misery and need in the devastated countries of the continent. One of our most important tasks besides obtaining sufficient food supplies for our country in the near future, will be the creation of the necessary basis for maintaining the production of our industry and trade. To solve this problem we must unite our efforts and subject ourselves to an even more severe discipline in our civil and economic life, or else we will not be able to succeed in this last and most difficult phase - the transition from war to peace. It will only be possible to surmount these last difficulties if we keep an eye on realities and maintain our unbroken will to hold out, even if we have to endure our present restrictions for months to come. We are still privileged compared with the countries which have suffered through the war. We can enter the post-war period with an intact production system which can largely be used to help in the reconstruction of the devastated countries."

"Nationalzeitung" of Basle: "The time has now come for our government to lead us back from emergency laws to normal legislation, and to our own traditional government institutions. To preserve our freedom we have accepted a few years of compulsion. Now that we have achieved this aim, we have to revert from a mere defensive attitude to constructive work, from the mere maintenance of freedom to the development of that freedom. Life must once again centre round the individual, and, at the same time, the state must become more human."

"Weltwoche" of Zurich: "An economic democracy must be evolved which is a reasonable equivalent of our political democracy."

"Gazette de Lausanne" of Lausanne: "Now we must revert gradually, but as soon as possible, to our old traditions and constitutional procedure. The essential task today is to revitalise the old pledge of freedom, which must guide our thoughts, feelings and actions and our internal affairs. This restoration, this resurrection of the old spirit of freedom must be coupled with an intimate understanding of the social aspirations which have been born during this war and which must be incorporated intelligently into our national life."

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