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U.S. OF EUROPE SEEN A REALITY WITHIN TWO YEARS.

Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, visiting professor of public affairs and regional studies at New York University, who has been working for a federation of European states for more than twenty years, said April 22nd he believed that project would be a reality within two years. It has "ceased to be utopian," he said, "and has become a question of practical policy."

Mr. Coudenhove-Kalergi, who left the U.S.A. on the "Queen Elizabeth" to assist in organizing a congress of representatives from European parliaments to meet in September or October in Montreux, Switzerland, to organize such a federation, discussed its possibilities in a press conference at the New York University Faculty Club, 22 Washington Square North.

Although he made it clear he would have no voice in that meeting, Mr. Coudenhove-Kalergi envisioned its result as a "loose federation something like that of the United States before its Constitution," with eventual incorporation of "some kind of bill of rights," a common European currency, a federal court, and police force - the latter three elements might not, he confided, be immediate, "The first practical step," he said, "will be the economic field. I think that will start probably in next year."

He polled 3,913 members of Parliaments of Belgium, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland last year. Of 660 who replied, only fourteen opposed federation. On the basis of those who favoured the plan, Mr. Coudenhove-Kalergi said it was apparently a revolution of the younger group against the older.

"Those who may have fought in the foxholes of this war," he said, "apparently think more of being spared another world war than of national sovereignty."

The delegates to the Montreux congress, one for each million people in the nation they represent, would determine what other European parliaments would be invited to join, draft a charter, recommend to the European governments practical steps to bring about political and economic union, and elect a council of Europe to serve as a permanent advisory body to the governments and the United Nations.

While in Europe, Mr. Coudenhove-Kalergi will also attend the five hundredth anniversary ceremonies of the University of Bordeaux, France, as a representative of New York University.

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LAKE LEMAN AND THE RHONE.

It is a source of surprise for many travellers that - Leman - is the historic and original name of the Lake known as 'of Geneva' a title doubtless conferred upon it by those first English visitors of the XVIIIth century, whom shades of Rousseau and La Nouvelle Heloise attracted to these shores.

Lake Leman is the Rhone's gift to Switzerland, and its springtime a fulfilment of the promise Valais - the Canton which cradles the upper reaches of the Rhone - renews each year. Before mingling its waters with the blue expanse of the Lake, the Rhone has come tumbling down from Sierre where the sun - so say the inhabitants - never sets and the vineyards thunder with the drums calling honest citizens to work; from orchards at

Sion asleep at the foot of its two medieval fortresses, Tourbillon and Valère; from the rose-tinged shadow of apricot orchards at Saxon and Martigny. The Rhone is a great traveller and he appreciates beauty!

The Ticino is like a picture-book, each page revealing a new delight, but the Leman district is a painting by a great master. A book is made to be perused, but a painting needs to be contemplated. To Lake Leman will always return, again and again, all those who seek to forget the too narrow horizons of daily life by communing with Nature in her most noble form, when earth, sky and water hold equal kingdoms and compose their most majestic harmonies.

Southwards lie the mountains, the Dents du Midi sheathed still in snowy armour; to the north, the waters mirror the long cliff-like walls of the vine terraces where labour husbandmen in blue jeans. Above Montreux, the mountains open wide, like some immense sun gallery where not a ray of sunshine goes astray and where, day after day, the tender green of spring meadows bites more deeply into the snows of Caux and Jaman furrowed still by swiftly disappearing ski tracks. The last skiers of the season speed down the Rochers-de-Naye and already the first hardy little lake craft bob gaily on the dancing waters. When her time has come, Spring sets to work with all the startling speed of a magician. In the space of one morning, an enormous magnolia tree is covered with a thousand rosy bowls, woods are carpeted with primroses, scyllas and hepatica. Mountain railroads suddenly wend their cog-wheeled way through flowery banks. One afternoon, they may take you to Caux, to Glion above Montreux, to the Pléiades, the Mont-Pelérin or to Chexbres above Vevey, or farther afield to the Lausanne Signal or the Signal de Bougy above Rolle - to any of those sheer balconies, seemingly suspended between sky and water, which overlook this beautiful Lake.

The district of Gruyère and the town of that name, the most picturesque of Swiss townships, must also feature on the programme of the rambler in Western Switzerland.

An extremely well devised system of holiday travel tickets enables sightseers to travel as freely as they wish, to arrange delightful trips and excursions by train and on foot, to alternate hotel menus with delicious rustic snacks in village cafés.

Sports facilities and amusements of all kinds are not lacking in the main centres along Lake Leman, for the region has, for centuries, catered for foreign travellers who today, in our most modern of centuries, are provided with infinite resources; tennis, golf, bathing, riding, cycling, rowing and sailing. For the higher brows, theatres, concert halls and art exhibitions supply more intellectual delights. To others, casinos, cinemas and dance halls extend their mundane invitation and restaurants of repute invite those who appreciate good cuisine.

Lausanne and Geneva, the City of Hills and the City of Parks, where the air from wide horizons blows so refreshingly over city life and pleasures, offer many unforgettable joys in springtime. And those who thirst for provincial quietude will find endearing welcome in the charming and historic townlets of Morges, Rolle, Nyon and Coppet.

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SUNDRY NEWS.

Dr. Benno Gut, born in 1897 has been elected Abbot of the cloister of Einsieden, in succession to the late Dr. Ignatius Staub. (A.T.S.).

The couple Josef Reichmuth in Oberiberg have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. The husband is 87 and his wife 81 years old. (A.T.S.)