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### Wie wär's au !

Wenn d'Spaghetti im Garte wachse wöred  
so guet wie Chruut und Gräs  
ond alli Hügel im ganze Land  
g'macht wäret vo guetem Chäs,  
en Bach am Huus vorbii,  
volle vom beschte Wii,  
wenn Brot und Wörscht a de Bäume hangti  
ond alles wör guet g'rohte,  
wenn alles grad scho g'chochet wär  
ond alles für üüs brote,  
wenn mer rüebig schlofe chönnt  
ond g'sond war wie en Fisch  
ond alli Tag so guet lebe chönnt  
a me ne vollne Tisch,  
wöred Banknote vom Himmel falle,  
so wie im Winter de Schnee  
ond Goldstöckli of em Rase wachse  
grad so dick wie Chlee,  
de Sommer wär eim gar nie z'heiss  
ond de Winter au nod z'chalt,  
wär mer au ewig jung  
ond wör denn au nöd alt  
ond jede het siis eige Huus  
chönnt lebe ohni Sorge,  
giengmet ä me feine Auto uus  
ond muesst au nüt me borge,  
wenn alli paar Tag es Festli wär  
ond überall Vergnuege,  
wemmer so viel Freiheit het  
ond sich nie muessti füge  
alli Bequemlichkeite  
derzue en Huufe Geld  
alles was mer wönsche chaa  
of dere schöne Welt  
ond Frede wär of de ganze Erde  
wenn niemer vom Chrieg wör rede,  
so gäbs gwöss no dere Ideote  
die wäred gliich nöd z'frede.

A.M.

### WHAT IS DOING IN SWITZERLAND.

#### TELEVISION.

As a result of lectures and conferences given at the International Television Congress in Zurich this summer, it was found that Swiss scientists and television research activities in Switzerland are leading over those of other countries..

#### SWISS SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND RELIEF.

The campaign of the "Swiss Donation" or "Don Suisse" which ran since 1940, and to which the Swiss people, a population of only 4½ million persons, contributed in the course of years over 200 million francs (1) is now being liquidated. Besides the "Children's Help," repatriation and rehabilitation. Refugee movements and asylum, numerous other separate actions were instituted for deserving homeless and destitute people of

European countries. Thousands of sick and ailing persons of other nations were allowed to enter Switzerland and to receive health treatments and cures. 3450 persons, suffering from T.B. have been hospitalized in Swiss sanatoriums. Thus, the word of "healthgiving Switzerland" has received wide attention and thankful acclaim throughout the world. Although the "Swiss Donation" fund is being closed, other funds and welfare institutions, of national and international scope will take its place.

#### FAITHFUL BARRY.

This Summer a film is being made which will feature the story of the famous Bernardine dog 'Barry' from the Benedictine Hospice of the Great St. Bernard on the pass route of the same name in the Swiss Alps. This famous dog, which was known to millions of people and doglovers has saved the lives of 41 persons who otherwise would have perished in snowstorms, while crossing the high alpine pass between Switzerland and Italy.

#### A MILLENIUM.

The great Abbey and place of pilgrimage of Einsiedeln in northeastern Switzerland is celebrating its 1000 years anniversary. For centuries, Einsiedeln has been an important and widely known place of learning and research, particularly in history, culture and the religious life. The community of St. Meinrad in the State of Indiana is a missionary branch of Einsiedeln, and there are others in other parts of the world.

#### A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY.

Fifty years ago, the Swiss National Museum (Landesmuseum) was opened in Zurich. Every period of Swiss history, from the lake dwellers to the present times are represented in the comprehensive and extensive exhibits of this Museum of Switzerland. In particular, the Hall of Weapons and Armory is considered unique in the number and types of displayed old weapons. Also, a whole series of rooms of the museum are originals or exact replicas of types of rooms as they existed in past centuries. Any visitor to Zurich should not miss a visit to the Swiss National Museum.

Switzerland's fourth official language of Romansch is spoken by only 46,500 Swiss in the Canton of Grisons. But it is fully recognised along with German, French and Italian. Romansch is a derivative of the old Latin spoken by invading Roman legions in Caesar's time. Today, it is understood only by natives in the mountainous Engadine district.

Switzerland's metal-working and machine industry ranks how ahead of watch-making, textiles, and food producing as the nation's largest industry, employing approximately 200,000 people in nearly 18,000 firms. The Swiss have pioneered in many technological fields, especially in electrotechnics, due to their country's abundant resources of water power. Swiss-made Diesel engines, marine turbines and an enormous variety of heavy and precision machinery are exported all over the world.

Up to the end of 1947 there were in Switzerland over 7000 Welfare-Relief and Social institutions for the benefit of Swiss workers and employees, and most of these organizations have been created through the private initiative of the employers of Swiss labor. Considering the total number of the Swiss population, 4.6 million inhabitants, Switzerland has the widest and closest social protection and insurance of any country in the world;

#### SWITZERLAND'S OUTLET TO THE SEA.

Although landlocked, Switzerland ships one-third of her imports and exports by water - through the inland port of Basle, on the Rhine River. Rising in the Alps to the south-east, the Rhine is readily navigable as it passes Basle on its way to the North Sea. About 8,000 ships dock in Basle each year. In 1947 approximately two million tons of goods were shipped and

re-shipped through Basle, which today is Switzerland's second largest city.

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SUNDAY NEWS.  
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PARLIAMENT.

The Federal Parliament in its December Session elected new officials for 1949. The National Council elected as President, Mr. Joseph Escher, a former Conservative and as Vice-President, the Socialist, Jacques Schmid, from Solothurn. In the States Council, Mr. Gustav Wenk, Socialist, from Basel was elected President, and the Liberal, Haefelin from Solothurn as Vice-President. On December 16th both Chambers met in joint session and elected as President of the Confederation, Federal Councillor Ernst Nobs, with 192 votes out of 217. Mr. Nobs is the head of the Department of Finance and Customs. It is the first time he is President, and also, it is the first occasion on which a Socialist has been elected to this high office. As Vice-President, Mr. Max Petitpierre, head of the Federal Political Department, was elected; he obtained 208 votes out of 221. These elections take place every year, and in turn each of the seven members of the Federal Council automatically becomes President.

A SPECIAL FILM.

A special film on the development of the Swiss Confederation during the last hundred years was shown with great success, on the 22nd of December. The first portion deals with rural scenes, then the characteristics of the former conditions illustrating the overwhelming sovereignty of the cantons regarding finance, customs, post, defence, and so on. Then comes the establishment of the Federal Constitution of September 12th, 1848, which gives the central power to the Confederation, and shows how the cantons freely relinquished their authority and rights in many matters. After this comes a brief summary covering the following decades with their new regimes in economic, social, cultural and other matters. This historical record is compiled of carefully selected events which are accompanied by a narration and music. Among the many guests were President Callo and other Federal Councillors, General Guisan, and high officials of the Administration, as well as personalities of Swiss economy, science and the Press, and representatives of the "Auslandschweizer-Werk." A copy of the film will be made in French and Italian, and it will be shown as a "short" in picture theatres. The "Auslandschweizer-Werk" of the N.H.G. will arrange for the distribution of copies to Swiss abroad.

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES.

Agreements have been signed in Geneva from representatives of the UNO, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of the Red Cross Societies and American Benevolent organizations, for assisting 600,000 refugees in Palestine. The sum of Sfr.21,500,000 has been set aside for acquiring foodstuffs, clothing, blankets and medical supplies. The International Committee of the Red Cross will be in charge of operations. The assistance will be given, without racial or religious discrimination to all refugees. The President of the International Red Cross drew attention to the fact that within the limits of its power the Red Cross has already assisted in Palestine since the outbreak of hostilities. Mr. Alfred Escher, Legation Counsellor at the Swiss Legation in London, has been nominated Red Cross Delegate for Palestine.

CONCESSIONS IN AIR TARIFFS FOR STUDENTS.

The "Swissair" has decided to reduce fares on certain routes for Swiss students from 12 to 18 years, who are abroad for educational purposes. The same reduction applies to young foreign students attending schools in Switzerland.