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of direct intervention by the people, may be complicated and cumbersome, but these drawbacks are amply compensated for by the solidity and stability which saves the country the costly adventures through which other countries have to live,

The third power of the State is the Federal court, the Supreme Federal Tribunal, which has its seat at Lausanne. The Federal judges are elected by the Federal Assembly for a period of six years. This court, with its four divisions, is the supreme court of Switzerland; its constitutional division is charged with the highly political duty of protecting the rights of the citizen, yet it has no power to examine Federal laws for their constitutionality.

What may seem a matter of secondary importance, and is yet typical of the whole structure of the Confederation, is the fact that there is no real capital in Switzerland. Berne is the seat of the governing bodies of the Confederation, the Federal Council and the central administration, as well as of such public institutions as the Post Office and the Federal Railway Department. Here too, the Federal Assembly meets, so that it is in a peculiar sense the Federal city. Berne, however, has not become the centre of Switzerland; the forces that work for federalism have always been and still are opposed to it. Berne has remained the capital of the important Canton of Berne, but she is no Swiss Washington (with her proper federal territory) nor is she a Swiss Paris. Each canton has its capital, urban or rural, according to its nature. Economic and cultural life have often proved to be factors more important than the political, which fact makes Switzerland a free state for free individuals, and not an artificial state to which the individual is subordinated; this is true democracy brought about by the right kind of federalism.

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X BRITISH PARTY TO SWITZERLAND. X
X A Birthday Present to Princess Elizabeth. X
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On the occasion of the birth of Prince Charles, the town of Lucerne, with the collaboration of the "Société des Hôteliars" offered, as a birthday present to H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, an invitation to fifty needy British children (orphans and bomb victims) for a month's stay in Lucerne. Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh accepted this offer.

The party consisting of twenty children from London and ten children respectively from the cities of Plymouth, Birmingham and Manchester left London, under the auspices of the International Help for children, - the President of which is the Lord Mayor of London, - on Wednesday, April 20th, from Victoria Station.

Shortly before the departure of the train, Princess Elizabeth, to the delight of the children, arrived at the station to say good-bye to them and to wish them a pleasant holiday.

Amongst the distinguished visitors at Victoria Station to see the children's departure, were - The Swiss Minister and Madame H. de Torrenté, accompanied by M. and Mme. Ch. Weibel, Secretary of Legation and Dr. A. R. Lindt, Press Attaché., Sir Percy Greenaway, representing the Lord Mayor of London, the Rt. Hon. Mr. J. Bowen, Chairman of the London County Council and Mr. Arno Krebs, President of the Lucerne Hotel Proprietors Association, to the latter Princess Elizabeth expressed her thanks for the invitation extended to the children.

The Swiss Press was represented by Dr. H. W. Egli (N.Z.Z.), Mr. J. Menessier (Journal de Genève), and A. Stauffer (Swiss Observer).

As the train drew out, the children gave the Princess a big cheer, and some of them leaned from the carriage windows to wave goodbye to her.