

A Swiss invention : the radio in relief

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weather was splendid, and as if by magic the trees were covered with flowers and the lawns wore a mantle of fresh grass. The pageant marched past under a pure blue sky, and the principal streets of the town were gaily decked with bunting. The spectators numbered somewhere around 200,000. All the Zurichois were out, except the sick and the newly-born babies. But they were not the only ones; the railways and thousands of motor cars had brought an unknown crowd of visitors.

One must admit that with 3,000 participants and many hundreds of horses and the pageant stretching along several miles, such a big gathering was justified. This long procession of costume groups marched on for two hours to the sound of the bands and in the shimmer of rich and multi-coloured uniforms and shining armour. This display was not only a very instructive summing up of several centuries of Zurich and Swiss history, but was, above all, a joy to the eyes, and it was regretted that in view of the amount of work required for the organization of such a spectacle, it could be enacted only once.

A SWISS INVENTION: THE RADIO IN RELIEF.

The radiosterophonic transmission system "Helvetic," invented in Geneva, has recently been presented to the public for the first time. It is the only system in operation which does not require two emitting sets and two receiving sets. The stereophonic reproduction gives all the tonal gradations, and transmits the different intensities and phases of sound reaching the left ear and the right ear of the listener as when standing in front of a stage. It gives an impression of realism which surpasses the one obtained by the present technique.

SWISS FARMING

(Continued)

The Farmer's Origin.

The Swiss people originated from various races feeling united by common history, democratic thinking, love for freedom, and economic problems. Hence, the individual members of the Swiss Nation differ by origin, language and religion. In the towns, the peculiarities of the Swiss are less prominent than in the country, although in the former, too, all the classes of the population cherish the old way.

The influence of the Celtic population, of the Helvetians and other races is particularly noticeable in French Switzerland. There, the immigrated Burgundians were ultimately assimilated and latinized by the Helveto-Romanic population. At a later epoch, however, the influence of Berne made itself strongly felt in those Cantons of western Switzerland. In the Canton of the Grisons the peculiarities of more ancient races are still present in the population, while the Canton of the Ticine has always been under the influence of Northern Italy. In the German-speaking Swiss Midlands the influence of the Alemanni has been preponderant. The Alemanni drove the Helveto-Gallic tribes back into the Alpine valleys although there, too, they succeeded in establishing permanent settlements. Thus, the Alpine region has become the abode of descendants of various races. There, among the dark-haired descendants of the primitive Swiss numerous flax-haired families may be found whose ancient past may be connected with German immigrations.

Peculiarities of Farmers.

In Swiss agriculture the family farm is a preponderant feature. Where farm-hands and farm-girls are employed they live with the farmer's family. His home,

family and village constitute the farmer's vital space. Increasing remoteness is apt to affect to an increasing extent the ways of life in village and farm. They are men of their own, reticent and often mistrusting towards all those who are not their neighbours and village-companions. The common feature peculiar to all farmers is their Christian faith, reliance in the Church, keeping of the given word, plain ways of life, satisfaction in their work, and thriftiness. Furthermore, they like to keep to their old ways and manners, and find pleasure in military service. Additional rural peculiarities are respect of knowledge and of wealth. Modifications in the peasant features are more likely to develop in the way contact between the farmyard and the traffic increases. This explains the great difference between the peasant population in the mountain regions and that of the Midlands. In the mountain regions, too, new ways of life have made their appearance here and there. Although the modern farmer tries to preserve as much of the old ways as is possible, there is a steady expansion of co-operative thinking, of the desire for education, expert knowledge and progress and of a businesslike and commercial frame of mind. In addition, the farmer's class consciousness is on the increase. All this, and his expanding participation in agricultural politics have become the basis and starting point of present-day agriculture.

Education of Farmers.

Throughout Switzerland the growing generation of the farmer population receives good schooling. The elementary school is the concern of the Cantons. The Federal constitution provides only for the elementary school to be State-owned, compulsory and free of charge. Attendance, in a general way, at the primary school is up to the age of fifteen, the age limit below which children may not be employed in factories. Instead of attending the primary school throughout, a great number of future farmers attend the secondary school or district school. In recent times, the majority of the Cantons set up training schools, so-called "Fortbildungsschulen," with compulsory attendance in part. These schools however, limit their courses to a restricted number of lessons a week. In the villages agricultural education is included in their syllabus. Hence, they form a sort of transition for the professional school.

The prosperity of the Swiss people is mainly based on the excellent professional education of the growing generation. In this, the youth in the country has its full share. The professional education of the Swiss farmers is, in the first instance, the task of the intermediate agricultural schools. These comprise the theoretical-practical schools, prevalently with two annual courses, and the winter school with two winter courses with prevalently theoretical teaching. In addition, there are various special schools and housekeeping schools. Many of these schools are very well equipped, and have highly experienced expert teachers required to own the diploma of the agricultural section training. Except for that University being the concern of the Confederation agricultural education is the business of the Cantons. Numerous lectures and courses organised by the Cantons and the agricultural associations are intended to add to the general expansion of expert knowledge. The same holds good in respect of professional tuition given by way of broadcasting.

The Cantons provide, as far as State-owned schools are concerned, four agricultural theoretical-practical schools, 37 winter schools, three for fruit growing, wine growing and horticulture, four dairy schools and 16 agricultural housekeeping schools. Moreover, there are four private professional schools receiving State subsidies. The demand has developed to such an extent in recent years that subsidiary classes have had to be opened in many cases.

Many agricultural teachers act simultaneously as farm advisers. In the majority of cases, these use cars