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(considerably below 5%) are found in Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden, Nidwalden, Glarus, Basel-town, Schaffhausen, the two Appenzells, the Grisons and Valais. In absolute figures, the population of the Canton of Bern has seen the greatest growth, with a 71,000 population increase, then comes Zurich with 63,900, Ticino with 37,000, Aargau with 33,000 and Geneva with 32,000 new inhabitants.

Is Freedom to Demonstrate a Right ?

Switzerland's highest judicial body, the Federal Court, will be called upon to rule whether or not demonstrations in the city of Zurich need prior police authorisation.

Two lower courts have given conflicting judgments on the point.

A district court judge in Zurich last year annulled fines imposed on four people who took part in a spontaneous demonstration involving a march to the Spanish consulate to protest against the treatment of trade unions in Spain.

The judge held that the city of Zurich does not have the right to make demonstrations subject to prior permission, otherwise the authorities would be able to restrict guaranteed liberties through their police powers.

However, this judgment, which aroused widespread interest in Switzerland, has now been overruled by the Zurich High Court, which said prior permission is needed so that the police can make preparations.

The High Court said, however, that permission should be refused only if there is a clear danger to public peace and order. But it found that the four men were guilty as originally charged.

Defence counsel for the four maintains that a demonstration becomes illegal only if damage to property or personal injury occurs.

Meanwhile Zurich attorney Manfred Kuhn says that, if the Federal Court upholds the Zurich High Court's judgment, he will put forward an individual initiative to get the cantonal constitution altered so that the right to demonstrate is expressly guaranteed.

Dr Kuhn says a spontaneous demonstration — such as one protesting against Soviet policies or actions — will not be possible if prior permission is needed. He maintains that an insistence on prior permission is just as incompatible with a free society as press censorship.

—Weekly Tribune, Geneva.

- **Reminder** of the Christmas Broadcast at 8 p.m. from all National Stations on 23rd December, as advertised in last Month's issue.