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were manifold, we have willingly and unflinchingly given, from a purely humanitarian point of view, and from a high sense of duty towards those who fought for the rights of mankind. Switzerland has always been a haven of rest for all those who have been persecuted, or who were in dire need of help, the finest example is the splendid work done by the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, which has brought relief and succour to millions of our fellow men in the four quarters of the globe. There are many more instances I could quote, where our country has been of paramount help to the nations at war, but we are not asking for thanks nor for cheap glory, but one thing we object to, and that is, to be accused of selfishness or enrichment whilst other peoples had to fight for their existence.

Contrary to statements made at one time or another that Switzerland has benefitted financially through this war, it must be stated emphatically that Switzerland is not, and has never been a rich country, and is emerging from this war considerably poorer, but thank God, so much richer in esteem for its great humanitarian work.

Let us hope that our endeavours and our achievements will be recognised, in a true and unbiassed spirit, and that it will not be forgotten that in the tragic hour of need, destruction and misery our country has fulfilled a mission of mercy, a mission which will go down in history as one, if not the only redeeming feature of this world war.

Once again, we Swiss abroad, testify anew our deep attachment to our beloved country, expressing our solemn gratitude to the Federal Government for

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their incessant and untiring labours for the welfare of our own people and for having guided the ship of State wisely and courageously past the dangerous rocks of a surging sea.

We equally owe this country, which has always extended to us a generous hospitality, and which has given to many of us a second home, deep gratitude.

We have shared in the past, to a great extent, the dangers of its inhabitants, and also in no slight measure a part of its duties, we have done this willingly and wholeheartedly in the knowledge that they not only fought their own battle, but the battle for Freedom and Liberty, ideals which are dear to us and which are the very foundation of our constitution.

Many of the sons, husbands and brothers of our countrymen have fought with H.M.S. forces in the various theatres of the war, some, alas have not returned, but all of them we shall remember in grateful memory for their services given to their adopted country.

"Peace on Earth and Goodwill on Earth," let this be our motto for the year 1946 and let us look into the future with a stout heart, hoping that this future will be purified and sanctified through almost superhuman sacrifices, and that out of the ruins of a horrible past, will emerge a better and happier world, a world in which the great human family can live in peace and happiness. ST.

## REFLECTIONS ON PEACE.

When celebrating the coming of Peace,  
We took it for granted that fighting would cease,  
After five stormy years, the World and his Wife  
Were weary of War, and tired of Strife.

We all had been promised a World brave and new,  
Work for all, with good wages, and little to do.  
There was freedom from want, and freedom from fear,  
With cartloads of food, and barrels of beer.

But somehow these schemes are slow in maturing,  
And the affairs of the World are not re-assuring;  
There are clouds in the East, whilst in the Central  
and West  
Diplomatic relations are not at their best.

What is hiddeed behind the political screen?  
If it's fair and straightforward, why can't it be seen?  
And why all this fuss about zones, blocs and spheres  
When bombers and rockets don't stop at frontiers?

Mankind has sinned, and our civilisation  
Stands on its trial and final probation.  
There will be no PEACE, if human love is platonic,  
Whilst hate, greed and lust are well nigh atomic!

F.I.