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**1st of AUGUST.
1291 - 1946.**

On this, our National Day, gladness and gratitude fill the heart of every right thinking Swiss. Gladness that our country has been spared the horrors of war, gratitude that once again the Swiss people may celebrate that precious gift which surpasses everything else in importance, that FREEDOM.

Bon-fires are lit on the hills and mountains, signalling one to the other that "all is well," songs are sung in the towns and villages testifying to the same message, speeches are made from endless platforms to thank Providence and to exhort the listeners to continue lives worthy of FREEMEN and FREEWOMEN.

We Swiss living abroad, separated from our homeland by land and by sea, send our innermost thoughts across to our beloved country, across to the hills and dales, the eternal mountains, and in those moments, when we celebrate in close union of spirit with our kinsmen at home, we too feel that deep gratitude, that holy stir in our hearts, we too testify with our kinsmen and rejoice that once again "all is well".

We are proud to signal, not only to each other, but to the world at large, that "all is well" in Switzerland. We know very well that there is a great deal happening also in Switzerland, to which that signal could not be applied, but when, on the 1st of August we Swiss celebrate our INDEPENDENCE, we say "all is well" and we signal it to those abroad, not in a spirit of arrogance, of superiority, but in a spirit of deep gratitude, and in the hope that others, who, in an effort to cure the ills that beset their people, chase after all sorts of chimerical expedients, might take stock of themselves and their thoughts and turn, for a moment, to the contemplation of what has been achieved in Switzerland and what is being held fast there.

It has been stated recently by the representative of a country, which name need not be mentioned, with a great show of reason, that the abolition of patriotism must necessarily precede any serious attempt to bring the nations of the world again together in a close union.

It all depends what one understands by the term "patriotism." If it means the love one bears one's own country to the exclusion of kindly consideration for any other, if it means that one's own country must be considered right in every case, that one's own country must come first in every instance, that one must be imbued with the notion that no other country can possibly come near it in any way, that no other country's people can possibly be anywhere near so good

and excellent as one's own countrymen, then I agree to the necessity of abolishing Patriotism.

If, on the other hand, Patriotism means the natural love any living man or woman has for his or her country of origin, the same as the love that, f.i., a "Berne" quite naturally feels for his home town, but which does not prevent him feeling a deep love also for the canton of Berne and equally so, even more perhaps, for the country of Switzerland, then I disagree.

Patriotism which enables one to extend one's love for one's nearest home to the larger home without, and from that to the still larger home which is represented by the country of one's birth, and from that, it would follow quite naturally, to the still larger home represented, say, by the Continent of one's birth, and still extending, to the whole earth, is a fine thing to be encouraged.

And, I think and hope, in that respect we Swiss can be an example to others. We can show other Nationals that, although we are Swiss first and foremost, we are also good Europeans and good "Worlders," if I may coin that name.

When we come to look into the history of the Swiss Confederation, as we know it to-day, we shall see that it has grown up from very small beginnings, in precisely the same way, as a future World Confederation will grow up. From a beginning of three small cantons in 1291, it embraces to-day 22 cantons, most of them as individual cantons, larger than any of the three first ones.

This progress from the smaller to the larger unit has been slow, has necessitated a number of wars, all sorts of international clashes, religious strife, economic wars, congresses and conferences in great numbers and of the most varied composition, but, finally and under the pressure of necessity as much as because the individual really wanted it, the fusion has come about, painfully at times, joyously in other instances.

In other words, the growth of the small units into a larger whole has not done away with Patriotism, but, on the contrary, made Patriotism possible, in a loftier form, in a form which in its interpretation means much more to the welfare of the individual Swiss than did the old form of Patriotism embracing only the small unit.

"All is well," signal the celebrations in Switzerland on the 1st of August, 1946, because the difficulties of the time through which we, in common with the whole world are passing and which are, I believe, emerges fairly clearly from the above, but the travail of the world struggling towards that greater fusion of its individual units, are difficulties which, although

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they beset our people at home directly and impose extremely heavy sacrifices upon them, are as nothing, compared to the all important fact that Switzerland, that lovely, beautiful country of ours, is safe and independent.

Therefore when we Swiss celebrate the 1st of August let us be aware of the deep significance attached to that unity and independence which we celebrate. Let us take renewed hope that one day it may be possible to celebrate this festival of achieved unity and independence on a much larger scale. Let us hope that the world at large will finally realise that salvation will come only when the various units come together, that improvement will be possible only when the various forms of warfare in which the various countries are engaging in to-day, have ceased and when in their stead there is Peace and Goodwill, Unity and Independence.

We all have learnt from the lips of men like Winston Churchill, the late President Roosevelt and Lord Cecil, and others qualified to form an opinion on such matters, that FEAR is the greatest stumbling block to disarmament and to the efforts that are being made to abolish trade barriers, so irksome at present, in other words, to the bringing together of the nations into one harmonious, and therefore independent, whole.

May not they look at the history of Switzerland, they that fear ?

Swiss history will teach them of fears that brought about wars and other disturbances throughout the growth of the Swiss Confederation. At the same time, the Switzerland we know to-day, will teach them, how utterly unfounded those fears were, how infinitely better off the various, formerly individually independent members of the Confederation are to-day, now that their former individuality has been merged into the greater sovereignty embracing them all.

"All is well." Let us pray that this signal may flash into the future not only from the eternal mountains of our beloved Switzerland, but from all the beacons right throughout the whole world!

And meanwhile, on the 1st of August, 1946, let us send our affectionate thoughts across to our dear homeland, commune with our people and celebrate with them, and let us thank God and invoke His further blessing on the land of our fathers.

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CONCERNING REGISTRATION OF SWISS CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

The Office Suisse de Compensation have been charged by the Swiss Authorities with the registration of claims which Swiss nationals have outstanding against Germany and Austria. The Swiss Legation, 18, Montagu Place, London, W.1, would be pleased to assist any national from Switzerland or Liechtenstein who wishes to register his claim, and to provide him with the relative forms.

Applications in connection with this matter can also be addressed to the Swiss Bank Corporation, 99, Gresham Street, London, E.C.2, who are likewise in possession of the necessary sets of forms, and willing to give the persons concerned any help they may need.

SWISS MISSION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

A Mission sent by the Federal Military Technical Service, has recently been in London, paying a return visit for a Mission sent to Switzerland, a few months ago, by H.M. Ministry of Supply.

The Mission was composed of the following gentlemen :

Colonel Brigadier de Wattenwyl, Chef du Service technique du Département militaire fédéral ;
Lieut.-Colonel F. Stauffer, Director of the Federal Armaments Factory in Berne ;
Captain R. Walther, Assistant Director of the Swiss Ordnance Aircraft Factories ;
General-Staff Captain Gubler, of the Section of Infantry.

The object of this Mission was to purchase the latest up-to-date war material, especially Aircraft, as well as Radar equipment. A number of the de Havillands "Vampires" machines have already been bought, and negotiations have taken place for the purchase of further heavy aircraft.

The Swiss officers, whom we had the pleasure of interviewing, expressed their appreciation for the kind reception they had received from the British authorities, which enabled them to pay visits to various important factories in the country. During their stay in London they had the opportunity to watch an important shooting contest at Bisley.

On Friday, July 12th, they were entertained by the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paul Ruegger, at the Dorchester Hotel, and on Sunday, July 14th, they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. Schmid at "Westfield," Hatfield, Herts. They returned to Switzerland by air on Friday, July 19th, 1946.

GREETINGS TO THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

On the occasion of a visit to Switzerland, we had the pleasure of meeting Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, late Swiss Minister in London, and Madame Paravicini, at Oberhofen, Lake of Thun, where they live now in retirement.

Both the Minister and Madame Paravicini have asked us to convey their sincere greetings to all their numerous friends in the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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