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country or for the supply of our industries with materials and we owe much to the spirit of enterprise of Swiss importers and the zeal our diplomatic and consular authorities have always shown in this matter.

I shall say no more of the commercial relations between the Sterling Area and Switzerland, as my idea was only to give a broad sketch of them.

\* \* \*

#### CONCLUSION.

We have seen how close and solid are the bonds which unite the different parts of the British Commonwealth. I would even say that the more we study this unique political organism the more we realise its power. It is impossible to break down its constitutional structure because it has not got one. "It is life," said Lloyd George at Versailles when he said it was impossible to define it.

\* \* \*

The corner-stone of the Commonwealth is Great Britain, and on her vitality depends that of the Empire. That is why the crisis that we are at present going through is of such importance to the whole world. For, as we have seen, no nation could ever replace Great Britain at the head of that Commonwealth. Neither the United States, nor Russia, nor any other country. It is difficult to imagine what a world-wide economic crisis the fall of Great Britain would cause. President Truman and Mr. Marshall have understood that — apart from the fact that they know that Old England is still one of America's chief sources of inspiration.

Therefore, it is now up to the industrialists, miners, and farmers of Britain. They have to fight against the ruin of their economy. A few months ago it was still a matter of speculation whether a new spirit might be able to bring on the indispensable production increase and organisational improvement. To-day we can see them beginning to break through in different parts of the country, in the steel-works, in the textile industry and in the mines. I have in mind, more particularly, North Staffordshire, where a real sense of responsibility is spreading amongst the miners, bringing with it, as its direct result, the greatest production increase in the country. That is what caused the President of the National Union of Miners, when speaking of this region a fortnight ago: "If we can produce throughout the country the same spirit which we have in Staffordshire, we will get all the coal we need for this country, and for export too."

I am convinced that far from despairing either of the Empire or of Old England, we should, on the contrary, feel that new hopes are being born every day.

#### URCHIGE SCHWYZERWITZE.

Der Fuxer. Ein Knabe bringt aus der Schule im Rechnen eine schlechte Note heim. Um die Ursache befragt, sagt er seinem Vater, dass ihn der Lehrer immer fuxe, und es auf ihn abgesehen habe. Der Vater will sich vom wahren Grunde der schlechten Zensur selbst überzeugen und geht in die Schule. Man gibt Rechnen. Der Lehrer prüft gerechterweise einen nach dem andern und kommt schliesslich auch zu dem betreffenden Knaben, und fragt ihn, wieviel 13 mal 13 ausmache. Knabe (zum Vater) "G'sesch jetzt Vater, jetzt fod er scho wieder a."

#### THE DUTIES OF A SWISS HUSBAND.

The undermentioned article has been compiled by an observant Englishman who has studied some married Swiss for a long time.

It is quite evident that the duties of a Swiss husband differ very much from those of an English husband. First of all a Swiss husband is very careful to so arrange his life that he gets plenty of spare time away from his spouse. He doesn't give this impression when courting, being very ardent and attentive, but that is only a blind because he has told his friends the position and they are loyal enough to excuse his attendance to the usual bi-weekly gatherings ostensibly for this or that Society, but in reality for imbibing and finding out what this and that one is doing. But after marriage the Swiss husband gradually breaks the position to his new wife and promptly resumes his former mode of spending his evenings. Once or twice a year Swiss husbands appreciate that their wives may kick over the traces, so they buy their wives a new frock or gown and take them to one or other of their national functions, thereby mesmerising them into the belief that all is well and pretending what jolly good and charitable chaps they all are.

The Swiss husband does very little to help in the household unless down and out, preferring to leave all those details to his wife and such other help as he can afford. The Swiss husband can usually look at the world through rose coloured glasses if he opens a bottle of the wine of his country and smoke a "Stumpe" at whatever hour of the night he returns to his abode from one or other of his social gatherings, and no matter how well he has fed solidly or liquidly. His wife will have retired as usual only trusting that the coming snores will not disturb her rest and thus prevent her rising early enough to prepare his breakfast, clean his boots, and brush his clothes preparatory to his departing next morning.

If ever a Swiss husband brought his wife a cup of tea in bed in the mornings, one of two things are bound to happen; either she would faint or come to the conclusion her husband wanted something.

If there were any children, you can bet, your life they would soon be asking their mother who this man was who they see at week-ends.

Thinking of your astonished faces after you read this, I would remind you that the foregoing is the truthful results of personal observations and might not apply to working Swiss, i.e., watch makers, sausage drawers, shopkeepers and restaurant keepers, for these may be detained long enough at their various trades, professions and callings to enable their wives to fetch them when its time for bed.

I now come to the end of my short paper and would ask you in all sincerity if you don't consider these Swiss husbands have a d—— good time.

S.W.

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