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AN UNEDIFYING SPECTACLE.

The recent happenings in various theatres of the world have had their repercussions in Switzerland.

The situation, with its dangerous aspects, was considered by the Swiss Government, and as reported in the Daily Press an invitation for a top level meeting in Geneva was sent by the Federal Council to the Heads of those countries principally involved. This invitation, although appreciated, was politely declined, as the time for such a meeting was considered to be inopportune.

The Federal Government viewed the situation with calm and restraint; unfortunately not so a large part of the population. Alarming and exaggerated rumours of an imminent general mobilisation went from mouth to mouth, encouraged by a somewhat unfortunate article which appeared in the "Manchester Guardian" which stated that the calling up of various units was considered, and that the Head of the General Staff was invited to attend the deliberations of the Federal Council. This statement was at once officially denounced.

One would have expected that the efforts of the Swiss Government to deny all groundless and alarming rumours would have resulted in restoring calm.

Unfortunately this was not the case, according to an article which appeared in the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" (Nov. 5th), and, from what we have heard from visitors who have recently returned from our country, a certain part of the population have suffered from an attack of the "jitters".

Food stores in many of the larger cities were literally stormed, housewives belonging to all classes of the population made a concentrated attack on all shops selling victuals, ugly scenes of women ferociously fighting for supplies occurred, and this in spite of an immediate *communiqué* issued by the Government that enough foodstuff was available for several months, and that further supplies were ensured.

What an unedifying spectacle? In a time when thousands of men and women in other parts of the world are bravely fighting for liberty and human rights, when whole families have to leave their homes and possessions to escape from oppression, Swiss women fight like furies for their own and their families' stomachs, when there is no apparent necessity to do so. It goes to the credit of some of the shopkeepers who bluntly refused to supply goods in unreasonable and excessive quantities.

Where is the spirit of the Swiss women who in ancient times fought bravely side by side with their menfolk for liberty and freedom?

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OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, December 21st, 1956. (One issue only).

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