

# Press review

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# **PRESS REVIEW.** **(Home Affairs).**

By H. v. MAY.

Ever since 1953, Switzerland has belonged, together with Sweden, Poland and Czechoslovakia, to the Neutral Commission for the Supervision of the Armistice in Korea. Time and again, it has become apparent that the control activities of this Commission have been subjected to sabotage in the Communist North, whereas in South Korea it has proved possible to carry them out in accordance with the provisions. This has now led to the fact that the Americans, also, no longer bother about the control and want to increase their military potential in South Korea. The Liberal "Bund", of Berne, writes as follows, in regard to this situation:

"It is through her good will to contribute towards the re-establishment of peace in the Far East that Switzerland has allowed her Delegation to remain in Korea. As a matter of fact, however, it was an unworthy function which was required of the neutrals, and it was only in order to serve the interests of peace and to demonstrate their international solidarity that Switzerland and Sweden have held out so long. And, now, the Americans have lost patience. . . . As a result, the task of the neutrals has become still more problematic, and they must now endeavour to extricate themselves from this situation. In view of the fact that their service in Korea has lasted for four years, instead of the couple of months that were originally intended, no one can really take this amiss. The only thing is", so the paper continues, "that one must avoid any false appearance which might lead one to suppose that the neutrals are now retiring because America is treating this control with indifference, and their only way of stigmatising this arbitrary action is by resigning from the job. This would really be quite wrong, after the other side had already made a farce of this control for a long time past." And the "Bund" concludes by saying: "We hope that the next development will provide the opportunity for the neutrals, Switzerland and Sweden, to give up their service in Korea, if not immediately, then, at any rate, very shortly. The reason for this, however, lies — and this must be made clear and definite — in the injustice and one-sidedness which have rendered the task so difficult for a long time past."

Among the domestic problems to which the Swiss Press is at present paying a great deal of attention there is the problem of foreign manpower in our country. The number of foreign workers has now increased to 340,000, and the fear is frequently expressed that this may lead to increased industrial investments. And it is just such a development that efforts are now being made to check, so far as is

possible, in order to prevent any further increase in the economic boom. The "Nouvelle Revue de Lausanne" is of the opinion, however, that such fears are groundless. This is what it writes:

"Without the help of foreign labour our country would not be in a position to meet the most urgent requirements of the boom, nor could it keep step with the economic expansion. One need only think of our export industry, of the various branches of the tourist industry, of the building market, as well as of agriculture, which are all incapable of recruiting the manpower they require from domestic sources! It is a complete mistake to think that the increase in foreign manpower will lead to an increase in investments in industry. On the contrary, without this foreign aid Swiss industry would be obliged to intensify to a still greater extent mechanisation, rationalisation and automation. And it is this that would demand considerable investments and would inevitably lead to a rise in prices. And should a crisis arise it would be the Swiss workers who would have to bear the consequences of over-mechanisation." The paper sums up by saying: "If today demands are being put forward for a decrease in the number of foreign workers employed, such demands would have just the opposite effects to those that are being striven for, as, in so doing, industry is being pushed towards greater investments. Some sound common sense and a little reflection will show the absurdity of such action."

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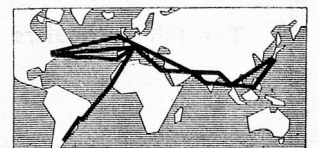
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