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PRESS REVIEW.

THÉO CHOPARD.

In an article entitled "The November crisis, Europe and Switzerland", the "Gazette de Lausanne" points out that the first duty of a small country towards itself and towards others — however disappointing this may be — is to last. Our prosperity must not, however, tempt us to have illusions; we remain fragile, as a result of our geographical situation and because of our lack of natural resources. That is why one of our first pre-occupations must be to strengthen our economic position. The development of atomic energy, and of that other industrial revolution caused by automation, will demand a considerable effort from us in the years to come, and this all the more so as the development of a Common European Market will subject us to more acute competition. . . Face to face with the difficulties that may be anticipated, our national unity remains our most precious capital — this national unity which is constantly exposed, through the very diversity of our political body and through the revolutionary character of the present times, to the action of disaggregational forces, which are all the more dangerous when they are least apparent. Thus, in spite of the tonic effects of the November crisis, there still subsists, between French and German-speaking Switzerland, a difference in tension which is not without importance. And this is only one of the numerous problems raised by the maintenance of our country's unity. . . What is of importance — the "Gazette de Lausanne" continues — is to strive unremittingly to achieve an attenuation of the social and economic contradictions which constitute one of the most formidable of revolutionary ferments and, more particularly, to associate ourselves more closely with aid to economically backward countries.

Facing, as we do, the prospects opened up by atomic energy and by automation, as well as the probable dangers which will no doubt result from the new industrial concentrations of this technical

progress, the "Lutte syndicale" writes that Switzerland ought to co-operate in a more active manner in the efforts being made to create a Common European Market, the constitution of which would appear indispensable for the harmonious expansion of Swiss industry. Faced, as they are, with the new problems arising out of the acceleration of technical progress and the rapid transformation of the world, the State and the economic associations can no longer limit their collaboration to so restrictive a task as the struggle against inflation. The time has now come for Switzerland to establish what one might call a general conception of our economic and social future. The "Journal de Genève" also observes that great changes in the economic structure of Europe are now in preparation; changes of which the rhythm threatens to accelerate and the repercussions of which will be considerable, in so far as Switzerland is concerned. This evolution, however, would seem to leave nearly all the inhabitants of this country quite indifferent. Watching the efforts deployed for the purpose of unifying Europe, and considering the problems of international collaboration, the average Swiss is afraid of being duped. He begins by smiling and letting others get on with the job. If this amuses them, why not let them do it? This attitude is a dangerous one. The moment has come to make the Swiss understand that what they take to be a healthy realism is merely blind scepticism and that imperious necessities are acting as a ferment throughout Europe and are forcing it to explode its obsolete economic structure. The failure on the part of Swiss public opinion to realise the importance of these problems is frightening to whoever stops to think on the matter. A country cannot remain deaf, with impunity, to the signs of the times. This fact must be stressed, over and over again, in order that Swiss opinion may finally see clearly, and that our country may be ready to view the situation with realism, to contribute more actively to the work of European construction, and to adjust itself to it, in spite of the risks, the obstacles, and the inevitable disappointments.



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