

Swiss farming

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The exportation of cheese and the importation of butter. Due to too high an increase of milk delivery, Switzerland has been compelled to augment the manufacture of butter and to suspend its importation, which came mainly not from Denmark, but from Sweden. The exportation of cheese has been limited during the first quarter of this year and amounted only to Sfr.13,000,000.

Telephones in Switzerland. The number of telephone subscriptions is still increasing and rose from 368,000 in 1950, to 574,500. There are 896,000 telephones, which means 51,000 more than last year.

SWITZERLAND & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

By PIERRE BEGUIN.

There is no need for me to repeat that Switzerland is in the fullest sense of the word a peace-loving country. Before the sixteenth century she was a great military power, but in the sixteenth century she adopted the policy of neutrality in order to safeguard her own internal peace. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, she proclaimed her neutrality to the world at large, and got it respected, not only to save herself but also to constitute an element of peace in the middle of Europe.

It is enough to recall these historical truths in order to make it clear that Switzerland did not wait for the so-called "partisans of peace" before she joined in, whole-heartedly, with every movement to safeguard peace. In the interval between the two wars she did her utmost to develop, in her relations with other countries, peaceful methods of settling international differences, that is, arbitration, mediation and conciliation. At the end of the Second World War it was in accordance with Swiss traditions that we hoped that now that the East and the West had become comrades in arms they had become reconciled with each other and that their wartime collaboration would continue, so that the Communist world and the liberal and Christian world, would grow to be more closely united even than during the war. Observers of international events, political thinkers and journalists in Switzerland even reached the stage of believing, in 1945, that a sort of synthesis between Marxism and liberalism was possible—a harmonious conciliation of mankind's two fundamental needs, liberty and security.

These hopes have vanished. Instead of the synthesis we hoped for we have seen the gulf grow wider, and the differences more alarming, between the two ideologies. We are farther than ever from peace. In fact there has never been any real end to the war, in spite of the temporary suspension of hostilities in those countries nearest our frontiers. At the other side of the world a localised war is raging, and people are wondering whether it will not develop into a general war, the third in a single generation.

In the old days we should have thought that a war going on in some little peninsula in Asia was no concern of ours, and we should have been pretty well indifferent to it. That is not our attitude to the Korean war. This is in no sense of the word a colonial war, it is one aspect of the conflict between East and West, and is perhaps the forerunner of upheavals which will take place in the more or less distant future near the frontiers of Switzerland.

But it can hardly be said that Switzerland is living under a cloud of pessimism and anguished apprehension. We are peace lovers, and even peace worshippers, to such an extent that we really cannot believe that such a frightful catastrophe as another world war will take place. Our minds refuse to consider that it is possible. Generally speaking, although the Swiss does

not live in a cloud of wishful thinking or in ignorance of what is going on in the outside world, they really cannot believe that there exist people mad enough to precipitate another world war in which there would certainly be no distinction between victors and vanquished; and in which there would be frightful casualties, since none of the belligerents could deal his enemies a vital blow and occupy his territory.

Switzerland realises how serious the present situation is, and knows perfectly well what dangers are latent in it. But she cannot resign herself to give up the hopes which she has placed in the maintenance of peace, and even in the establishment of a durable peace on a more satisfactory basis than before, in the more or less distant future. She remembers from her own national history that it took centuries to set up the present equilibrium which she at present enjoys. She hopes fervently that long-term efforts will allow the establishment of a world equilibrium, reproducing her own but on a larger scale. And at the same time she realises that this can only be attained on condition that there is no falling off in goodwill, and that none of the parties yields to the temptation of seeking a solution by force, for example by using weapons of mass massacre.

In other words, we are incurable optimists. But not blind ones. Switzerland will continue, as she always has done, to do whatever she can for the continuance of peace. Being a realistic nation, she knows that she may be disappointed in her hopes, and accordingly she is neglecting no precaution which might ensure her own security if another war were to break out. For it has been said that humanity will work out its salvation, if it can resist the evil counsel of Fear.

SWISS FARMING

Its Natural Structure.—Of Switzerland's area totaling 10,250,000 acres, three-fifths account for the mountains and valleys of the Alps. A considerable share of the unproductive area (25 per cent.) is mainly accounted for by the altitude, although the lakes, too, and the increasing extent of towns and villages and the multiplication of communications and barrage lakes, contribute to diminish the country's agricultural and forest area. The following figures illustrate the comparative smallness of the country's area suitable for intense agriculture:—

	Acres.
Unproductive area	2,300,000
Alpine grazing	2,500,000
Woodland	2,500,000
Strictly excellent agricultural land ...	3,000,000

Forest trees are to be found up to about 6000 feet, while grazing resist up to about 8000 feet. Regions higher up belong to the unproductive area.

Climate.—The farmer recognises and judges the climate, in the first place, after the vegetation. The climate is the outcome of latitude and altitude, of the inclination of the soil and of the position of the slopes in respect of the sun. Furthermore, of the rate of humidity of the air and of the soil, as well as of the precipitations (rainfall).

The most important factors are the altitude and the supply of masses of damp air, alternatively rain and snow, from the west. The ordinary cycle of meteorological conditions is apt to be disturbed by early and late frosts, by hail, as well as by abnormal drought or precipitations.

The position of the slopes in respect of the sun has considerable influence on the effect of the altitude. This is particularly apparent in the Alpine regions, where in many cases meadows and arable land, reach high up on the sunny sides, while on the shady sides the first

of the mountain forests are prevalent in the vegetations as far down as the bottom of the valleys.

The winds from the west convey the damp air from the Atlantic into our country. That air finds its first obstacles in the chaines of the Jura Mountains. While rising along their slopes it cools, and its humidity is simultaneously converted into fog, rain and snow. That is why the north-western side of the Jura is much richer in precipitations than the south-eastern slopes. Even stronger is the influence of the Alpine range. The closer to the Alps a region is, the more precipitations it gets. On the north side of the Jura the precipitations total from 55 to 63 inches per annum, while on its flanks sloping towards the Midlands, their annual total fall is below 39 inches. Most of the Midlands average from 35 to 43 inches of rain. In the sub-Alpine and the Alpine regions the falls reach from 80 to 118 inches.

Vegetation is also greatly affected by winds. The peculiarity of a number of valleys can be traced back to the FOHN. When descending from the southern mountains into the valleys, this warm wind increases in temperature steadily, particularly in spring and autumn. The outcome is to be seen in the expansion of fruit-growing and wine-growing and of land under maize. The more a region is exposed to the wind from the north and east, the so-called Bise, the greater is the danger from frost. This latter is mitigated by the vicinity of lakes acting as storage reservoirs for warmth.

The Soils available to agriculture in Switzerland originate on the one hand from the cristalline rock of the Alpine regions and, on the other, from the limestone of the sub-Alpine range and the Jura. The best soils are those which have been formed by the rubble carried down by the glaciers. In a general way, these soils are moderately heavy and very rich in nutritious matter. The soils of alluvial land vary greatly in their content of clay and are prevalently lighter soils, a sort of clayey sand or sandy clay. Sand soils in the true meaning of the term are rare in Switzerland. In this way the whole of the Midlands is particularly suitable for arable farming from the point of view of both the climate and the soil. The decaying soils of the Alpine and the sub-Alpine regions are generally rather heavy, though very rich in nutritious matter. Both the soils and the climate there, favour fodder crops. The extensive moor soils of the Midlands and the sub-Alpine regions formerly used in general way as rushland, have been ameliorated to a great extent, and have been converted into arable land, while the areas with more abundant precipitations have been used for growing foddercrops.

The Economic Structure.

In the course of the 19th century, Switzerland changed from an agrarian land into an industrial and trading country. A considerable proportion of the land population moved to the towns. The following table shows the trend of population-movement, relative the farming inhabitants:—

Years.	Total Swiss population.	Of which agricultural population.	%
1888	2,917,754	1,076,713	36.9
1900	3,315,443	1,033,418	31.2
1910	3,753,293	967,584	25.8
1920	3,880,320	954,854	24.6
1930	4,066,400	867,123	21.3
1941	4,265,703	866,720	20.3

The increasing industrialisation and urbanisation of the Swiss has created new conditions in agriculture.

The DEMAND for agricultural products has grown. Although the farmers reduced their own requirements to a considerable extent, and although their workers earned less wages in kind and more wages in cash, agriculture in Switzerland has been unable to cover all requirements of the population. Particularly bread cereals were in-

creasingly imported from abroad, and Swiss agriculture got more interested in fodder crops and livestock.

The industrialisation of Switzerland resulted in higher costs of production as far as agriculture was concerned. Wages and taxes rose. Craftsmen no longer came round to work at a customer's house. Many installations and repairs became, thereby, more expensive. Building cost increased to a marked extent. Industrial workers, craftsmen and capitalists were acquiring agricultural estates, the farmers tried to expand their holdings, agricultural land was lost to road and house building. Hence, increasing prices were paid for the purchase of land.

The greatest effect, however, resulting from industrialisation was brought to bear on the wage claims of the workers. Since wages in industry and in the crafts were always ahead of those paid in agriculture, many agricultural workers, including also sons and daughters of the farmers, left the land. In due course, agriculture experienced an increasing shortage of man-power. Thus, in addition to the policy of the prices, the question of the workers has become the great problem of the future of Switzerland's agriculture.

(To be continued.)

SWITZERLAND'S HELP TO WAR-DAMAGED COUNTRIES

Address by Prof. Dr. Carl Ludwig, President of the "Schweizer Europahilfe."

(Continued from last issue)

After the events of the spring of 1940, an immense field of work opened up for relief work on behalf of the civilian population in the countries to which the war had then spread. Various Swiss relief organisations were already working abroad, such as the Basel Relief Committee in Alsace, and "Caritas" and the Swiss Workers' Relief Organisation in France and the north of Italy.

A year later, in July, 1941, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies established the Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross, which undertook the task of providing refugees, women, children and old people, with medicine, food and clothing.

Not only did our people show the greatest sympathy for all these undertakings, but when appeals for money were made to the community, the necessary funds were always forthcoming.

A new situation arose in 1943: for it was then that it first became fully apparent how horribly hostilities had affected the civilian population in the belligerent and occupied countries.

In December, 1943, UNRRA, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, was set up, with the object of helping war-damaged countries—on the one hand, by providing food, medical supplies, clothing, agricultural equipment, industrial machinery and raw materials for the reconstruction of what had been destroyed; and on the other hand, by repatriating sections of the population which had been deported, prisoners of war and refugees.

It was out of the question for Switzerland to join that organisation. She therefore decided, in view of her tradition, to go her own way, and—with the means at her disposal—to help the victims of the world catastrophe on parallel lines to UNRRA. On 25th February, 1944, the Federal Council informed the public in an official