

State finances of Switzerland

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on the subject, the success of his experiments, and the opening of his Clinic at St. Moritz propagated the idea of heliotherapy, which is now known and recognised all over the world.

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One of the most beautiful customs which has been in vogue for centuries is that practised by the Alpine herdsmen of Switzerland when the light of day is waning and the sun sinks in the west.

Just as the last rays of the sun are disappearing, and the golden glow is reflected on the white mountain tops, the herdsman living on the highest mountain peak, takes his Alpine horn and calls loudly: "Praise the Lord God! Praise the Lord God!" As soon as these words are heard by the neighbouring herdsman below, he takes his Alpine horn and relays the call to his neighbour. Down the mountain side the call goes, sounding like some wonderful echo and lasting for about a quarter of an hour. When silence falls, every herdsman kneels by his flock in evening devotions. Finally, when devotions are over, the herdsman living on the highest ridge again calls, "Good-night! Good-night!", and this call is in turn carried down the mountain side, and with this last thought of gratitude and praise for their Maker, the herdsmen drift back to their cottages and all is silent.

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STATE FINANCES OF SWITZERLAND.

The Administration expenses of the Swiss Confederation for 1935 have been published on March 5th. The year closes with a deficit of 18,5 mill. Francs. Some principal items of income are as follows :-

	in million francs:	
	1934	1935
Active interests and mortgages	24,1	25,8
Customs	221,2	211,6
Tobacco	39,0	41,3
Petrol	47,9	55,4
Stamps Duties	43,8	43,5
"Crisis" surtax (extra income tax)	18,4	31,0
Military tax	4,5	4,2
Alcohol tax	-	16,4
Profit Post & Telegraph	13,6	10,0
Tax on fodder	5,3	4,7
Profit from imports of fodder	20,3	27,3
Various other incomes	15,5	14,1
	<u>453,6</u>	<u>485,3</u>

Following are a few items of the more important expenditures:- Interest and amortisation service: 19,2 Mill., Political Dept: 7 Mill., Interior Dept: 45,4 Mill., Police and Justice: 6 Mill., Army: 95,1 Mill., Finance & Customs Dept: 24,5 Mill., Economical Dept: 142,8 Mill., Post and Railways: 5,7 Mill., etc.

Some recent deficits of our State's household are, in round figures:- 1932: 24 Mill., 1933: 72 Mill., 1934: 26 Mill., all together a rather distressing position.

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A fellow-countryman, a N.Z. resident of many years standing, happened to visit his Homeland. One evening he was present at a party, when he was asked to give a Maori Haka. His knowledge of Maori lore was very limited, but still he did not want to show his ignorance, so he brushed up his rather fierce looking moustache, rolled his eyes, and went through all the needed movements, reciting in his rather resonant voice:-

KOMATA, KOMATA, WAIRANGI, TARINGAMUTU, WAIPUKURAU, ETC. ETC.

Wild applause greeted him at the finish from an appreciative audience who was quite ignorant of the fact that they had been treated to some N.Z. geography.

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