

Wartime - trading is not easy!!

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As for the opinion of the socialists, collaboration brings up the question of principle and the matter of an agreement upon a minimum program strongly inspired by the party's doctrine.

The socialist "Volksrecht", states clearly: 'Something is sure, the just demand of the Socialist party for an immediate introduction of an old age insurance, the plan for work at any price, and the suppression of old special privileges for trade and industry must be accepted or else we must remain in the opposition and continue the fight with people for these aims. In four years or less we shall see how things have developed.' The same newspaper, gives this warning: 'Concessions merely of a formal character give little hope for success.'

Such are the first elements of discussions in Switzerland's press, which certainly will be taken up by Parliament just as soon as the new chambers come together.

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WARTIME - TRADING IS NOT EASY!!

In some of the New Zealand newspapers appeared an article on the measures taken by Britain to prevent trading with the enemy. In this article, the Swiss firm of Sulzer Brothers, which is well known all over the world, was also mentioned, as being placed on the blacklist by the British Ministry of Economic Warfare, apparently for refusing to sign a certain undertaking.

In order to safeguard our industry from the accusation of exporting arms and machinery which can be used in actual warfare, the Swiss Government issued a decree and replied in a communique to the accusation against the firm of Sulzer Brothers; which read as follows:

"The Swiss Federal Council has forbidden business houses to make contracts with foreign governments or their representatives. Unilateral declarations to foreign governments binding contractors to import or export goods is also banned. A maximum fine of 30,000 Swiss francs is imposed, plus two years imprisonment. The same penalty if the ban is broken through negligence.

On November 5th, the Swiss Government issued a communique replying to British charges against the Swiss armament firm of Sulzer Brothers at Winterthur. It was announced in London that this concern had been put on the blacklist by the Ministry of Economic Warfare. The Swiss communique states that during the war the firm Sulzer has exported neither arms nor munitions, the entire output of its armaments division is being used to supply the Swiss Army and it is only operated on contract from Swiss authorities. It is therefore inappropriate to describe this factory as an arms factory when referring to its exports. Contrary to certain statements, the Sulzer firm, since the outbreak of the war, has exported neither submarine engines nor spare parts for vessels of this character."

The inscription of the firm of Sulzer upon the black list is of a nature which may influence the firms of the Metal and Machine Industry in their future export possibilities given by the Swiss authorities. These possibilities are based upon agreements made with both belligerents. Because the firm of Sulzer declined to sign an undertaking not to form any engagements which submit Swiss export to foreign control, its name has been inscribed on the blacklist despite the fact, that throughout the war it has exported, in conformity with the instructions of the Swiss authorities, only those products which were produced under peacetime conditions.

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