

The foreigners in Switzerland

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THE FOREIGNERS IN SWITZERLAND.

During the great debate on the expulsion of Nazis and Fascists from Switzerland, the Federal statistical office has published figures revealing the total number of foreigners who lived in Switzerland at the time of the latest census. These figures reveal that the number of foreigners in our country has dropped considerably and still continues to drop if one does not count the refugees and internees who are temporarily residing in Switzerland.

In 1930 about 157,000 male persons of foreign nationality lived among our 4 million people. In 1941 this figure had shrunk to 96,000. The Germans had been most affected by this decrease as their number had dropped from 60,000 to 30,000. The number of Italians had decreased by about 1/3 and the French by about 1/5. These figures only comprise men and to them must be added about 200,000 female persons in 1940 and the total which was reduced to about 127,000 in 1941. All in all more than 355,000 foreigners were living in Switzerland in 1930. Corresponding total in 1941 was still 223,000.

The Cantons of Zurich, Basle and the border region of the Thurgau have always been the favored places for the Germans to live in Switzerland. The Cantons of Ticino and Zurich for the Italians and the Cantons of Vaud for the French. Before the war there were about 18,000 French people living in Geneva.

Since the war many of the 300,000 Swiss persons living abroad have returned to Switzerland, those from Germany practically all ruined. Their fate will necessitate a large scale aid action in their favor.

SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

More than 100 persons, who have been expelled by the Federal Council have already left our country. To this number must be added all those who have been expelled by the cantonal authorities and who are also no longer residing on our territory. Their total however cannot be established as yet as the actions are still going on. In numerous cases appeals against the decrees of the federal and cantonal authorities are still pending.

The communal council of Davos has sent a list of 100 undesirable aliens to the cantonal police department at Chur and has recommended their expulsion.

The State Council of the Canton of Zurich, after a thorough inquiry, decided to expel 32 more German citizens. 182 National Socialists have been ordered out since June 9 of this year, some of them with their families. Moreover 43 active National Socialists have been expelled through the intervention of the Federal authorities, which makes a total of 228 for the Canton of Zurich.

By the decree of July 13, 1945, the Federal Council has blocked all assets belonging to people who have been expelled from Switzerland. Payment to these persons can only be made to the Swiss National Bank and any disposition of these funds is only possible with the authorization of the Swiss Office for Compensation. Transfers of funds to countries abroad are strictly forbidden. The Swiss Office for Compensation in Zurich has been entrusted with the execution of this decree.

At a time when the demobilization of the army is being completed, an order issued by the Federal Military Department authorizes the General Staff to designate the properties that had been requisitioned for the army, which can be turned back to their owners and the military works that can be demolished.

On Saturday morning, General Guisan bid farewell to the authorities of Basle City. After the official ceremony, he was invited to a lunch at which Colonel de Bary, territorial commander of Basle, Lt. Colonel Oeri, city commander and Prof. Hentschen, president of the University of Basle were present. In the late afternoon, General Guisan also paid a farewell visit to the authorities.

On July 30, at 7.30 a.m., a plane of the French Air Company left the airfield of Cointrin near Geneva, inaugurating the resumption of air traffic between Switzerland and France on the line from Geneva to Paris.