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Composer Huber's efforts evidently bore fruit. Since the middle of last century alpine festivals, with competitions in excellent alphorn playing, have become annual events in Switzerland.

The alphorn is without doubt the characteristic instrument of the Swiss Alps. Limited as its range is, its music, when floating and echoing through the wide spaces of the alps, has a magic of its own which fills the hearts of natives of the Swiss mountain regions with a strange tenderness and love for their homeland.

Marie Widmer.

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#### SWISS MODEL FOR U.S. ARMY.

Don Markel from the N.Y. Journal-American Washington Bureau writes March 25: Veterans of Foreign Wars experts on national defense have drafted a new peace-time training program patterned on the Swiss system.

The V.F.W. plan, in which the Swiss program has been modified to facilitate an expanded National Guard, will be presented to the national legislative committee of the organization.

Quick general approval is expected by V.F.W. officials who, for the past two years, have worked on development of a national preparedness program for submission to Congress.

Here are high lights of the V.F.W.'s plan:

American youth at the age of 18 would receive 60 to 80 days basic training in each of two consecutive summers. They would retain their civilian status and training would be under over-all civilian authority.

American trainees would become members of a newly created National Guard Reserve, as distinguished from the traditional National Guard, which would be retained.

V.F.W. would specify that National Guard reservists be absolved from any State service or duty to which regular National Guard units might be called, and they would have a continuous peace-time civilian status, similar to that of the peaceful but trained and prepared Swiss.

V.F.W. leaders who have been working on this plan feel that it is the most democratic that can be devised, declared James W. Cannon, V.F.W.'s general counsel.

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#### HOOVER PRAISES SWISS.

Geneva, March 26. Herbert Hoover praised Switzerland's food distribution system and care of war victimized children at a press conference here today.

"Never has so little a nation done so much for humanity in all history", said the former United States President, now chairman of the American commission investigating the European food situation.

"Switzerland has performed a gigantic task in most able fashion, not only in caring for children but also in caring for the great mass of refugees and soldiers who were prisoners of war.

"If all the world had a democracy so dedicated to peace", Hoover added, "world civilization would be two centuries ahead of where it is today."

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