

Fascinating wonder of nature

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by the International Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland, disclosed last week.

The report, released by Church World Service, Protestant inter-denominational relief agency of 37 E. 36th St., estimated that in 1947 Europe will need 34 billion tons of cereals, a need which can be only partially satisfied by expected American and Canadian surpluses of 21 billion tons.

The Red Cross report showed the worst famine threat in Europe is in Hungary, where the current daily ration per person is only 800 to 900 calories. In Budapest the average is 600 calories.

Germans and Austrians, a little more than one year after their defeat, are getting 1000 calories a day per person on the average. In the American zone the figure is 1300 calories.

The calorie average in Albania, Finland, Italy, Poland, Greece and Yugoslavia is 1300-1500; in France, Bulgaria and Romania, 1500-2000.

FASCINATING WONDER OF NATURE.

Once more that natural wonder, the Märgjelsee, at the foot of the Aletsch Glacier, has disappeared. This phenomenon occurs now and then in the course of several years. A satisfactory explanation has never been given, but it is assumed that at a certain level the pressure of the water is great enough to force itself a way at the lake's bottom, and the water then disappears into the ground underneath. The lake is then fed again by the waters of the Aletsch Glacier and thus "resuscitated", until the process repeats itself.

INCREASE OF RADIO SETS IN SWITZERLAND.

The number of radio sets licensed in Switzerland as of December 31, 1945, approximated 850,000, states the Swiss press. At the end of December 1944 there were 819,502 licensed radio sets. On the basis of the 1945 figure, Switzerland would have one radio for every 5 persons, or 80 sets for every 100 families.

ASPECTS OF SWISS DEMOCRACY.

FEATURES OF THE SWISS CHARACTER.

From time immemorial the Swiss has been used, within the people's economical sphere, to deciding himself upon his fate, be it in the pasture-land corporation, in the parish, canton, or in the confederation. He is not merely one of the state's subjects or even a dependent, but a citizen and as such a part of the sovereign Swiss people. As a rule emperors and kings are understood to be sovereigns; in Switzerland it is the people in its entirety.

The prerogative freely to give, either by show of hands, at the "Landsgemeinde", or at the ballot-box of the ward or parish, the casting vote to his authorities and openly to express his opinion anywhere and at any time, is closely connected with the Swiss character, be it that out of an inborn desire for freedom such privileges were gained and defended through centuries, be it that these rights shaped his character such as it is, self-confident and self-reliant in judgment - the very opposite to gregariousness - that of an independent lover of liberty.

It was during the war, when a Swiss asked a foreigner about his country's opinion of the situation. "That is a truly Swiss question," was the reply, "at home we don't talk about the situation, we look on to what our government does, but with you every citizen is a minister of foreign affairs."

The Swiss' sense of liberty and independence, however, does not only appear in his words. His ways of living are also significant. Just look at the magnificent villages and towns! Is not every Bernese farm a