

# Sundry news

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Conference. On Monday in Zurich, Marshall Montgomery, Chief of the General Staff of the powers which signed the Brussels Pact, made a speech which, in some ways, was a real world survey. Today we are going to speak about two matters which interest Switzerland mainly, but which also involve the rest of the world.

Marshall Montgomery came to Switzerland in an entirely private capacity. He spent his holidays here. Some cantonal and federal and communal authorities gave him receptions, but these receptions were merely courtesy gestures to a distinguished guest. So that it was in a purely personal way, and in a private meeting, that the Marshall spoke at Zurich. What he said about the roles of armies and military leaders at the moment, is full of interest but he spoke only in very general terms. But, he went much further when speaking about the role of Switzerland. He spoke in high terms of Swiss neutrality, emphasizing its importance and said he was convinced that Switzerland was ready to defend it. If Switzerland modifies in any way her traditional policy of neutrality, she would run the risk of becoming a battlefield and that would mean destruction. Swiss public opinion has little need of being set to rights about neutrality, even by the most capable strategist. Everyone knows that the Swiss people and Swiss authorities are thoroughly attached to this traditional policy. We merely wanted to quote this interesting point that a man who through necessity has a thorough knowledge of European military problems, knows that this policy has in no way lost its meaning today.

The statements of M. Petitpierre in Paris to representatives of the Swiss Press after the meeting of the European economic co-operation Organisations meeting, were of course, of quite another kind. That was more or less an official interpretation of the results of the various conferences held in the French capital. One point of general interest was the constitution of a Ministerial Committee which is to co-ordinate the national economic plans of the countries associated in the organisation. One remarkable thing is that the re-actions of various official commentators did not exactly coincide. Count Sforza of Italy greeted the setting-up of a Ministerial Committee as a sort of design for a real European government. Mr. Spaak, Belgian delegate and President of the Council of the organisation, did not go nearly so far. However he did say, that the Committee was a more or less permanent institution and that it could play the part of a sort of economic government. Keeping strictly to the decisions made, M. Petitpierre considers that the Committee has not and must not have the character of a government, even within strictly defined limits. The European Economic Co-operation Committee will in no way make for a centralisation of European economy, and set up a sort of western domination. What has to be done is simply to harmonise the efforts made by the interested countries - that is to say to carry out, more efficiently than in the past, the principles laid down by the Paris convention, which created European economic co-operation. The decisions taken are along the lines of those principles. There is no doubt that a tendency does exist in certain quarters, of making the organisation a political one, but the recent discussions have shown a denial of this tendency.

The above statements, briefly reviewed in this talk, are worth noting. They were very well received in Switzerland, for if our country wants to help all it can, the reconstruction of Europe, it does not want in any way to get itself tied up with politics. And there's no doubt that Switzerland is not the only country looking at things in that light.

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FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

The National Council has decided by 108 votes against 50 to maintain the tax



see a grave violation of human rights, and a cruel deed of persecution against the Church."

The Association of Swiss Catholic Students have also protested as follows:-

"Appalled by the unjust verdict by which a prince of the church has been condemned in a country with deep christian traditions, the Association of Swiss Catholic Students is herewith protesting energetically and expresses the hope that your country may find freedom again."

#### SWISS ARTISTS ABROAD.

The "Orchestre de la Suisse Romande" under the leadership of Ernest Ansermet, has been invited to participate at the musical and theatrical festival which will take place in Edinburgh from the 21st of August to the 11th of September this year. This invitation has been accepted in the meantime.

#### CONDEMNATION OF A TRAITOR.

After debates that lasted for two days, the criminal tribunal of Lausanne has condemned by default William Gueydan, aged 41, citizen of the Canton Vaud. He is sentenced to twenty years for treason, as well as for political, military and economic espionage in favour of Germany to the prejudice of France and Switzerland.

#### ARRIVAL OF FILM STARS IN SWITZERLAND.

On the 13th of February, the American film stars, Cornel Wilde and the French artist, Josette Day, arrived in Switzerland. Both have accepted contracts for a new Swiss film to be produced by the Praesens Film Society in Zurich.

#### SWISS GIVE DE FACTO RECOGNITION TO ISRAEL.

The Swiss Federal Council has granted de facto recognition to Israel.

#### SWISSAIR.

On the 29th of April, 1949, the Swissair will resume its weekly trans-atlantic flights to the U.S.A. From the 30th of May, 1949, two flights will be made weekly. In future each plane will call both at Zurich and Geneva on both the outward bound and return flights, in order to enable the passengers to embark and land at the port nearest to their domicile. The Swissair will continue the weekly flights to Cairo and Basra.

#### EMIGRATION.

In 1948, 3,622 persons emigrated from Switzerland, as compared with 2,599 in 1947.

#### THE EX-KING OF RUMANIA TO TAKE DOMICILE IN SWITZERLAND.

According to the "Nouvelle Revue de Lausanne" the Ex-King, Michael of Rumania and his wife, are renting a mansion at La Conversion, near Lausanne, where they intend to settle down in the near future.

#### THE GREAT EFFORT OF THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION OF POST, TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH.

The following figures show eloquently the great development of industry and commerce in Switzerland. In the year 1850, the orders of the P.T.T. amounted to Sfr.360,000; in 1900, they exceeded the figure of Sfr.15,500,000 to reach in 1946, more than Sfr.178,000,000. The P.T.T. are consuming enormous quantities of petrol, heavy oil, fuel oil and lubricating oil. To a more marked degree than most countries, the telephone lines are underground in Switzerland. This progress has been achieved at great cost, and it offers a wider measure of security. Today the network of underground telephone wires represents a distance of three million kilometers (1.87 million miles). 93% of the telephonic network is now automatic.

The vehicles owned by the P.T.T. are covering twenty-one million kilometers per year. The Post, whose services extend to the remotest corners of the country, avails itself of the most ancient as well as the most modern means of transport; on the ground, on the water and in the air, and this not

without considerable expenditure, since this enterprise had to pay to other transport agencies, a sum in excess of Sfr.20,000,000 in 1946.

A NEW MOTOR-COACH FOR THE SWISS FEDERAL RAILROADS.

Soon the Swiss Federal Railroads will use on the Swiss network a new type of motor-coach for light express trains. The new vehicle differs little from the ordinary coaches; at one extreme end it has a pilot similar to that on a locomotive. A multiple conduct system runs through the entire length of the train right to the locomotive, and the conductor in the pilot coach at the rear of the train is really controlling the locomotive at the opposite end; thus, the locomotive will push the train and time wasted on shunting will no longer be necessary. Upon arrival at its destination the train is ready to take off again without delay.

AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC INTO SWITZERLAND.

504,100 motor vehicles crossed the Swiss frontier in 1948; this is more than double the figure for 1947, and is 72,000 units above that of 1938, which was a record year before the war. By comparison with the previous year it is estimated that the total number of motor cycles and auto-cars to cross the frontier, has almost trebled and that of automobiles has doubled. Here are some figures:-

France	285,229.	Italy	124,045	Germany	17,622
Belgium and Luxemburg	33,495.	Great Britain	13,922		
Netherlands	8,790.	Austria	7,592.	Africa	1,616.
North and South America	5,361.	Scandinavia	4,300		

There were 29 from Australia.

SWISS RAILROADS.

In an American Guide for Tourists travelling to Europe (Fielding, New York 1948), the Swiss railroads are rated A.1. According to that Guide - "they are running exactly like the watches." The Swiss cuisine is especially mentioned - "One can eat everything and everywhere." Fondue and Schabzieger (sapsago) are specially praised. Fielding has this to say of the Swiss - "The most honourable collection of human beings on the surface of this globe." He ends his observations with the following remark - "If scientists were given fifty trillion dollars, a certain number of atomic bombs and a task to find somewhere a paradise for tourists, they would point their index on Switzerland and say "What for? There you have it already!" (Gosh! - what a reputation to have to live up to! - the Editor).

EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS.

Prof. Leo Weber, Director of the Seminary of Solothurn, gave a lecture on educational problems of the present, particularly on "The development of individualism in man" as a counter-movement against the development of the "mass-man." Only in the intimacy of the small personal community can man win his individuality. In this the Swiss pedagogic spirit assumes world importance. He further points out that it is due to the smallness of our community that we have been preserved from sinking into a mere existence of the masses.

Thirty German pedagogues who lost their positions during the Hitler regime, were invited to the "Volksbildungsheim" on the Herzberg, where Fritz Warterweiler acquainted them with the country and the people, as well as with the history, constitution and economy of Switzerland. Excursions were made to put them in touch with Swiss institutions of work, learning and art, and also with public administration. In conclusion, they lived for some time with Swiss families, and thus the German teachers were led out of their isolation and incorporated once more in the community of the peoples.

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An up-to-date edition of the "Schweizerische Bundesverfassung" has been edited by the Federal authorities. On the request of the N.H.G., the Swiss Government has decided that every Swiss citizen living abroad is entitled to apply for one copy of the Constitution. Application forms may be obtained at: