

Switzerland's largest chimes

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The Responsibility of "Fifth Switzerland"

'THE year of "Fifth Switzerland" is an occasion to consider the relationship between the homeland and the Swiss communities abroad in all its aspects. If we do so, we come to the conclusion that the decision of 16th October 1966 regarding Article 45 of the Federal Constitution will not only mean an act of solidarity, but a testimony of gratitude towards our Swiss compatriots abroad for all they have achieved and are still achieving in favour of cultural and economic relations and our position in the world in general. Our country, second to none, is dependent on foreign markets for our products, and unlike most other countries we have to solicit understanding of our unique position in the community of nations. Without presumption, we may claim that our land can inspire many countries with regard to constitutional and political institutions, above all in the art of peaceful co-existence of groups of different languages. Here again, besides our diplomatic and consular representations, the "Pro Helvetia" Foundation and other institutions, it is our fellow countrymen abroad who have an important part to play.

'The Swiss abroad will know how to thank their country for the year of "Fifth Switzerland" and for the crowning it will receive by the acceptance of the Constitutional Article. There is no better way for them to express this than by keeping continually in mind that every one of them will appear as a representative of Switzerland to all citizens of his hostess country and that he will help them to shape the picture of our country. These are responsibility and dignity which commit.'

(From the preface of "Die Fuenfte Schweiz"
by the former Federal Councillor F. T. Wahlen)



Switzerland's Largest Chimes

THE largest set of bells in Switzerland was recently inaugurated at Libingen near Buetschwil (Toggenburg). It is one of the attractions of the newly erected Albert Schweitzer Memorial Tower and consists of forty bells the weights of which vary between 11 and 3,628 kilos. The chimes are operated either automatically or by hand and may be heard every day at 8 a.m.; in addition, they play a five-minute programme of various tunes on the hour from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At weekends and for larger groups, the owner of this unique carillon—Mr W. Meierhans—whenever possible will play traditional Belgian, Dutch and other chime compositions. The profit made on the modest entrance fee goes to Dr Schweitzer's hospital in Lambarene.

(SNT0)