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engine, both stationary and locomotive, is becoming almost extinct; the saturation point of home consumption cannot be far distant. Hydro-electric development, however, will not be arrested. The export of power to Italy, France and Germany is already taking place on a considerable scale. Within another decade it is quite conceivable that Switzerland will be playing the part of power station to Central Europe to the extent of 10,000,000 kilowatt hours per annum. If sold in bulk at only 1s. 10d. per unit, the Swiss revenue would thereby benefit to the extent of about £4,000,000, or, say, £1 per head per annum. Thus, *per capita*, it would be an asset to Switzerland comparable with what our export coal trade meant to us prior to the war.

Switzerland is now completely coupled up to a network of high-tension lines fed by some 300 power stations, about 50 of which have installed capacity of from 10,000 to 100,000 horse power. Between them the total generating plant capacity amounts to nearly 2,000,000 horse power, and an annual output of no less than 1,000 kilowatt hours per head of population. This is five or six times as much electrical energy per person as we at present enjoy; but is about the same figure as Sir John Snell predicts we shall arrive at in twenty years' time. Thus in the Switzerland of to-day we may expect to observe some of the factors which we shall reproduce by other means in time for the coming generation, if not for ourselves. We can also observe a country in which the electrification of the main lines is already an almost fully accomplished fact.

Although, naturally, conditions are utterly different in Switzerland, the country resembles ours in that it has to live by exchange of fabricated articles for food. Switzerland's natural handicap is, in fact, far greater than ours, in as much as she has to export sufficient manufactured articles not only to buy food, but to pay for the raw materials, coal, iron, copper, oil, etc., and likewise semi-finished products such as plates, forgings, etc., needed for her manufactures.

Switzerland is up against the storage of energy problem in a much more acute way than any other country in the world. Wherever power is derived from the combustion of fuel, man can regulate the combustion more or less to suit the demand for power. But Switzerland wants to live entirely on her native power from falling water. Nature decides when this shall occur, and her moods bear no relation to the habits of man. The Rhine refuses to flow full bore from 8 a.m. till noon, and then knock off for lunch. The glaciers refuse to melt in the winter, which is the season of heaviest demand for light and heating. The hour to hour variation of load throughout the day, and the discordant month to month variation throughout the year of both supply and demand, call for power storage on a colossal scale. The Waeggital works, of which too little has been heard, is the latest and boldest attempt to solve the storage problem. The town of Zurich and the North Eastern Power Co., of Switzerland, have combined in an expenditure of over £3,000,000 to store about 50,000,000 kilowatt hours by huge impounding works for creating a lake storing 140,000,000 tons of water at an elevation of about 1,500 ft. above the tail race of the lower power station.

Romantsch.

With reference to the efforts for preserving and reviving this ancient language, *The Times* (Dec. 15th) has the following report:—

The "Lia Romantscha," or League for the protection of the Romantsch language, recently held its annual meeting at Chur (Grisons), and discussed certain measures likely to foster the use of Romantsch and to protect it against German and Italian encroachments.

Romantsch is a very ancient language spoken in some parts of the Swiss Canton Grisons—the Engadine, Oberhalbstein and Grisons Oberlands districts, which form a zone separating the lands of the German language, on the north, from those of the Italian, on the south. Romantsch, or more exactly, the Rhaeto-Roman dialects, are not of Celtic origin; the Romans regarded them as degenerated Etruscan languages, and some experts believe them to be parents of the Ligurian. After the Roman Conquest, the language of the Rhaetians was much influenced and modified by Latin, and it became the Rhaeto-Roman or Romantsch, which is a language in itself, very different from Italian, though there are some points of resemblance between the two languages.

Romantsch has a literature of its own: popular songs, poems, prose, and numerous religious works. These literary works began to be printed after 1552, and the most prominent authors were Biffurin, Travers, Campell, Caderas, Mathis and Gabriel. One of the most prominent modern Romantsch poets is M. Peider Lansel, who lives in Geneva and who is responsible for the present development of modern Romantsch literature, towards the publication of which he generously contributes.

During the last two centuries numerous German and Italian speaking settlers from other districts of the Grisons or of Switzerland came

to reside in the Romantsch territories, with the result that the use of the local language was neglected. The Cantonal Government being at Chur, where German is spoken, made no efforts to protect the local language; it even devoted all its energy to diffuse German. The consequence was that, at one time, Romantsch was seriously menaced by the intrusion of German and Italian. Some Romantsch patriots then started the "Lia Romantscha" to defend Romantsch by all means. This league is collecting and publishing ancient and modern documents and literary works; it is editing several newspapers, grammars and school books; it is strenuously defending Romantsch against any encroachment, and strongly opposes the efforts made for Germanizing or Italianizing the Romantsch districts. These efforts have been successful—the Rhaetian railways now put up the names of stations both in German and Romantsch; the Government subsidizes the teaching of that language as well as the publications of the "Lia Romantscha" and of the local writers.

The clear result of this courageous campaign is that Romantsch has now gained in consideration, and is no longer a disappearing but a living language, and the Grisons inhabitants speaking this language, after decreasing from 38,705 in 1880 to 38,651 in 1900, rose to 40,234 in 1910 and to 42,940 in 1925.

In spite of the progress made by Romantsch during the past twenty years, the stamp of German conquest will be maintained by fashion and habit in certain names of localities. If Silvaplana, Celerina, Cresta, Pontresina are only

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