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Autor: [s.n.]
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when night falls over Switzerland, the Swiss forests — like Birnham Wood — become alive and begin to march. By legal and illegal methods, the Germans force the Swiss to comply with their wishes. What is true of the French francs is also true of the German mark, though reselling the mark is so difficult that even the Germans do not often engage in the business. German trade with Switzerland is nothing but disguised plunder. Germany sells Switzerland raw materials from which Switzerland manufactures arms, munitions and instruments that must be sent back to Germany. Germany sends to Switzerland just as much iron, steel and coal from Alsace and Luxembourg as she pleases and pays for Swiss articles with commodities which she does not need.

Never has Switzerland been politically more split than to-day. Around her twenty-one lakes her people used to live in almost fabulous harmony. The ideological war raging at Switzerland's frontiers has destroyed this political unity.

This year three referendums were held in Switzerland. According to the Swiss constitution, a petition signed by 10,000 citizens suffices to submit a law to popular approval. In all these three cases the Swiss decided against their Government.

In the first referendum the Government wanted to raise the salaries of the Civil Servants: the people regarded the salaries of this strongly bureaucratized country as high enough. In the second case the Government wanted to assign more fruit to the manufacture of alcoholic drinks: the Swiss decided that a child eating fruit is more important than a man drinking brandy. In the third case the Government refused to increase the number of Cabinet posts from five to seven, so as not to admit the Social Democrats to the Government. The people voted for the extension of the Cabinet.

All this is explained chiefly by the fact that a coalition of middle-class parties — the Radical, Conservative, Catholic and Peasant parties — rule in opposition to the Social Democratic majority. Even after the referendum, the Social Democrats were not admitted to the Government. This exclusion of the largest political party in the country causes a permanent political tension.

In October 1940 Pilet-Golaz, President of the Swiss Confederation, received, without informing the members of the Council representatives of the forbidden Nazi party — their Swiss name is the "Frontist Party" — and discussed Switzerland's policies with them. Public indignation was so strong that Pilet-Golaz and his circle were forced to abandon their plans.

The radical mood of the population, among whom both Nazi-ism and Communism are gaining ground, has infected the Army. It is an open secret that the relations between the Leftist men of the rank and file and the Rightist officers are increasingly tense. There is no doubt that the St. Gothard and Simplon tunnels are tremendously strong arguments in the hands of the defenders of Swiss freedom.

The Swiss bureaucrats, influenced by Germany, are growing increasingly hostile towards foreigners. All foreigners, with the exception of Aryan Germans and Italians, must leave the country within six months "because of the food shortage." Until that date, all

foreigners, regardless of their material situation, must be interned in labour camps. By contrast, every destitute foreigner who leaves Switzerland equipped with a regular *visa* receives 400 Swiss francs. Thus the Swiss are trying to find a middle road between the traditional rights of asylum and the new Fascist intolerance.

Europe's last "free" country is a beleaguered fortress. Its courageous inhabitants continue to keep watch on its frontiers. But even more than the countries which fell to Hitler's brown battalions, the example of Switzerland demonstrates that there can be no neutrality and no freedom as long as Hitler's shadow hangs over Europe. Switzerland is the model of a country which, so far, at least, has not been invaded by military methods, but by spies, swindlers, speculators, business agents, diplomats, manufacturers and all those German invasion troops who wear no helmets, and not even a uniform.

UNE VISITE A "SUNSHINE HOME."

Le samedi 16 août, près de 30 compatriotes, membres de la N.S.H., se trouvaient réunis à Swiss House. Un autocar confortable les attendait pour les conduire à Sunshine Home, East Grinstead, Sussex. Pour ceux qui ne savent pas ce que ce nom représente, disons qu'il s'agit d'un home pour enfants aveugles, dirigé par une "matron" anglaise que seconde avec beaucoup d'amour et de compétence une compatriote, Mlle G. Zingg, membre fidèle de notre groupe londonien de la N.S.H.

A East Grinstead, les membres de la N.S.H. furent rejoints par Monsieur le Ministre et Madame Thurnheer, qui désiraient voir aussi le travail accompli pour les petits aveugles.

Le nom de ce home est symbolique; il représente bien la réalité; car il n'est pas exagéré de dire que, grâce à ce home, c'est le soleil et la lumière qui entrent dans la vie de tous ces petits pensionnaires de Sunshine Home. On sent que tous forment une grande famille, suivie avec amour par un personnel actif et dévoué. Il y a des bébés; il y a des enfants plus âgés, jusqu'à 7 ans; ils y reçoivent une excellente éducation, et malgré leur cécité, ils apprennent à vivre une vie complète et presque normale; ils ont même une petite école, où leur cerveau apprend à travailler et à se développer. Ils font des jeux, beaucoup de jeux, et il fait bon les voir prendre leurs ébats, insouciantes et joyeux. On sent alors que grâce aux soins dont ils sont l'objet, ils trouvent dans leur vie un bonheur qui sans cela leur aurait été refusé pour toujours.

Mademoiselle Zingg fut heureuse de montrer à des compatriotes, en compagnie de la directrice, cette magnifique institution; et malgré la guerre, les participants furent accueillis pour un thé qui ne rappelait en rien un temps de restrictions.

Monsieur le Ministre, au nom de tous, remercia nos hôtes et exprima son admiration pour le travail accompli. Et c'est avec un peu plus de soleil dans le cœur que nous repartîmes, heureux d'avoir vu une œuvre si constructive, à l'heure où l'on entend constamment parler de destruction.

P.