

Our next issue

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mainly to relieve unemployment during the last war and in the early 'twenties at the enhanced prices ruling at the time.

Economical

The accounts of the Swiss Bank Corporation to the end of 1944 show net profits of Frs. 10,510,000, including the carry-forward from the previous year, against Frs. 10,241,000 for 1943. The total assets at the end of 1944 amounted to Frs. 1,540,016,000, compared with Frs. 1,473,255,000. A dividend of 4 per cent. is to be proposed, as for the previous year, and the carry-forward will be Frs. 4,110,000, against Frs. 3,841,000.

* * *

The "*Commercial Motor*," January 19th, has discovered a new agricultural Tractor with novel features and reports as follows:

"From the little town of Vevey, comes an oil-engined agricultural tractor, built by the Ateliers de Constructions Mécaniques de Vevey S.A., and possessing some interesting features. It combines simple mowing and heavy ploughing with transport work on the highway. The gearing affords five well-graded speeds, permitting field work at under 2 m.p.h., and a road speed of 12 m.p.h. The steering and layout are arranged so that it can turn about one of its rear wheels, enabling the smallest areas to be cultivated. To permit this, there are, apart from the ordinary foot and hand brakes, two others which allow either of the back wheels to be held. This scheme also permits a wheel to be locked if it tends to spin on soft ground. A patented device provides rapid connection between tractor and implements."

Humanitarian

An interesting scheme to benefit juvenile war victims is given by "*The Times*" correspondent and is published in its issue of January 13th:

"Herr W. R. Corti has formed an organisation in Zurich for the purpose of creating "children's villages" in which foreign children who are victims of the war may be cared for — especially orphans, cripples, and those whose health has been undermined. Plans are already under way for the building of such villages at Aegeri, on Lake Zug, Beatenberg, on Lake Thun, and Agra, in the canton of Ticino. The children would be under specialist medical care, and in addition to receiving a general education they would be taught some art or craft which would fit them to earn their living when they returned to their own country.

Each village would be self-sufficient and the children would share in its administration. Children of various nationalities would be grouped in separate villages or houses in which they would be educated in their own language and according to the programmes of education existing in their homelands. They would remain in Switzerland until they were cured or fit to work.

It is intended that the scheme should be partly financed by private subscription but also that it should benefit from the 100,000,000 francs recently voted by Parliament for aid in European recon-

struction, and from a further 100,000,000 francs which the Swiss people are being asked to subscribe for the same purpose. It is hoped that other countries will create similar institutions for orphans and disabled children."

* * *

During the second part of last month two large transfers between Constance and Marseilles of prisoners of war, both wounded and civilian, were effected under the supervision of the Swiss Red Cross, which had undertaken to provide comfort while passing through the country. The "*Berner Tagwacht*" of February 1st, has published a short description of one of these promising trips which proves conclusively that the Red Cross when fighting Red Tape has not the slightest chance. The following translation is published from "*The Tribune*" with due acknowledgment:

"A contingent of about eight hundred people arrived last Thursday in Kreuzlingen and was to have been sent on without delay. However, an unexpected delay occurred, and temporary shelter had to be found. This contingent consisted of two categories of people.

"Most of the travellers were American Jews, who had been well looked after in Germany owing to American intervention. They were properly fed and clothed.

"The second category of people came from the notorious camp at Dergenbelsen near Hanover. These people arrived here in the most pitiful condition, emaciated, old and some of them critically ill. Shortly after their arrival in Switzerland four of them died. Some had to be taken to the St. Gall Cantonal Hospital, because they were found to be unfit for travelling. The remaining refugees dragged themselves along the short road to the St. Gall railway station on Tuesday morning. They walked very slowly down the few steps to the platform, like very old, worn-out people.

"It was a very sad procession, and included women and children, some of whom were carried on stretchers to the railway carriage. The American authorities had not given permission for these people to rest on their way, or for those who were exhausted to be left behind. Not even the Jewish rabbi was allowed to look after them. A mother living in Zürich whose child was among the refugees, was not allowed to visit her child. A husband, whose wife died here, was not allowed to attend the funeral.

"The exchange of these Jews for Nazis from America had been organised as an exchange for an exactly equal number from each side. Therefore it was essential that all these refugees should pass non-stop through Switzerland into France on Tuesday, in bitter wintry weather."

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We hope to go to press again on the 30th March, 1945 and we take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers who added welcome amounts to their ordinary subscription rates:— Miss M. Meyer, Miss L. Sigrist, R. Schmid, Miss R. Staub, P. Bonnet, H. Wälti, Miss C. Rougemont, E. Strauli, A. Steiner, H. Knapf, P. Meister, F. H. Meyer, P. Isacco, A. Peter, R. A. Merz, A. Wiedmer, E. Lucca, A. Gallusser.