

Our next issue

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sentiment. During the war it had 59 delegations serving abroad, all the members being Swiss, and they travelled a total of eight million miles on their various missions of mercy. Food parcels dispatched to prisoners of war ran into millions and cost three milliard Swiss francs. Much inevitable obstruction had to be overcome. The Germans would only allow parcels to be sent to persons whose names were already known to the International Red Cross, and would not allow other names to be revealed. Starting with 60 known names, and working on a chain-letter system, the investigators finally compiled a list of 56,000 interned persons in Mauthausen, Dachau, Belsen, Theresienstadt, Landsberg and other camps. As a crowning achievement, the International Red Cross delegations were able at the last moment to prevent a massacre of prisoners by the Germans in the camps of Berlin, Oranienberg and Ravensbrück. The work of repatriation is now in full swing. Numbers of refugees have been sent home, other contingents are being convoyed daily. Repatriation is complicated by the fact that many of the interned are unwilling to leave Switzerland, either because they have nowhere to go or because they fear the consequences.

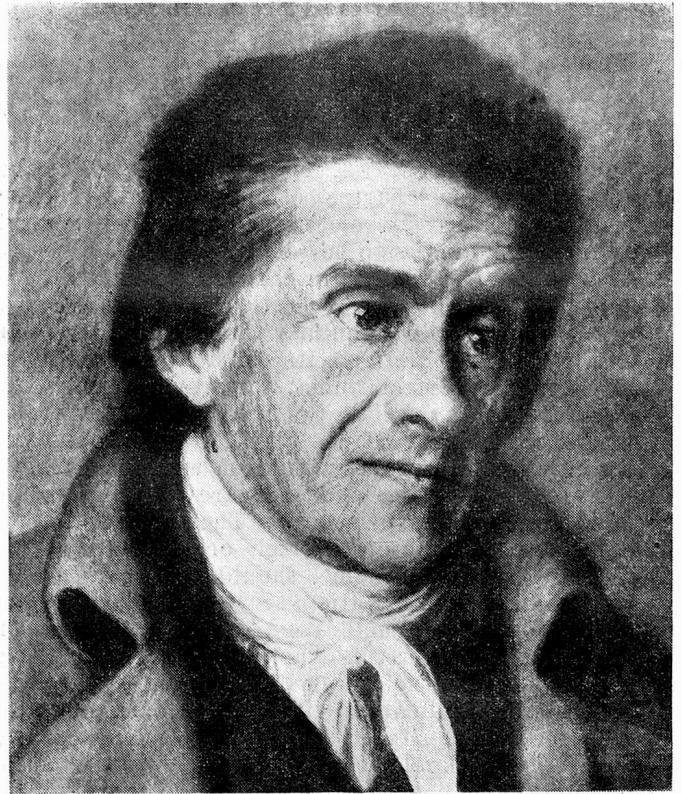
If the Swiss stoutly defended the right of asylum for the oppressed, they were equally vehement in asserting the right of Swiss industries to supply the belligerents with whatever they thought fit. There is nothing in international law to prevent this, but in practice it meant that supplies were sent to Germany alone. Almost down to the end of the war the long German coal-trains from the Ruhr lumbered through the St. Gotthard and Simplon tunnels night and day to keep the war industries of Milan and Turin running. Swiss firms supplied machine tools and precision instruments to Germany, and the Swiss automobile industry combined to form a repairing and reconditioning workshop for German military cars. For the Swiss it must be said that all through the war they were under strong military pressure. The Germans had only to cut off the supply of coal and Swiss industries would have been paralysed, with consequent mass unemployment.

Uncompromising insistence by Switzerland on her absolute sovereign neutrality would probably have the same deleterious effect on the future organisation of peace as her privileged position in the League of Nations. The co-operation of the Swiss, a peace-loving people by definition, would be of inestimable value in the task of maintaining peace in the new conditions that have arisen with the invention of new weapons. But some modification of the traditional attitude towards neutrality would seem to be necessary before that co-operation can be made effective.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We intend to go to press on February 22nd, 1946, and take this opportunity of thanking the following Subscribers for their enlarged subscriptions:

H. Senn, Miss O. Asper, F. H. Röhr, W. Deutsch, W. Lehmann, P. Siebenmann, W. Eichenberger, R. Weist, R. Schmid, G. Hafner, Miss J. Wyss, L. Forrer, Mrs. E. Müller, H. Leuzinger, A. Ottiker, F. Schubeler, L. Siegrist, J. R. Tissot, A. B. Chilvers, Mrs. Marquarie, A. Schneider, Miss M. Meyer, C. Rougemont, Miss C. C. Meyer, Dr. Pettavel, E. Belart.



JOHANN HEINRICH PESTALOZZI
(b. January 12th, 1746)

On January 12th not only Switzerland, the land of his birth, but the whole civilized world did commemorate Heinrich Pestalozzi, for it is largely due to this great educator that the instruction and education of youth is to-day recognized as a matter of national interest.

Pestalozzi was born in Zurich as the son of a simple surgeon; after his father's early death he spent his boyhood in the loving care of his mother and a faithful maid servant. From his grand-father, vicar of a rural parish not far from the city, the bright youngster got to know the peasants, not only in their hard toil and many troubles, but also in their happy moments. At that time young Heinrich like so many of his contemporaries, fell under the spell of Rousseau's "Emile." Filled with holy zeal he vowed to become a reformer of his people.

After a brief course of studies he turned to practical work and took up agriculture on a Bernese farm. He next decided to work on his own account with his wife, who was seven years his senior, and took over the Neuhoof estate near Birr in Argovia. He wanted to prove that the best remedy for empty pseudo-culture and also for the moral and physical misery of the people was a combination of agriculture with intelligent home education. Unfortunately his venture failed and even the home for the poor that he set up on his estate miscarried owing to his lack of organizing ability.

However, in the difficult period that followed, his literary gifts came to the fore. In those years he published a number of works in which he opened up new horizons. Amongst them was "Hermit's Evenings" and his famous novel of village life, "Leonard and