

Arms of Zurich

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SWISS RATIONING.

The "Illustrated London News," in their issue of March 29th, 1947, writes about the Swiss rationing as follows:—

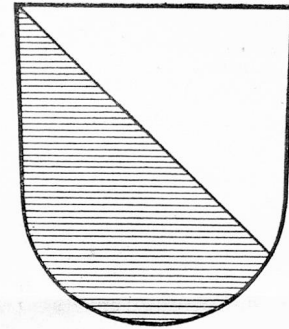
(The article is illustrated with interesting drawings.)

"The British idea of Switzerland as "a land flowing with milk and honey," where the people enjoy a scale of living comparable with that of a luxury hotel, is entirely erroneous. Certainly the organising powers of the Swiss hôteliers give the visitor — only seeing the country from the viewpoint of a well-heated, comfortable hotel with abundant food — a totally false impression. The Swiss people are in many ways rationed even more severely than their British visitors are at home, as will be seen from the ration table below which is taken from an average monthly ration issue. The unwitting stranger who rents a chalet instead of staying in a hotel soon deplores his choice — for, although queueing is unknown, making the ration go round is a major household problem. There is a bright side, however for wines, spirits, beer, fruit and cigarettes are plentiful at not too prohibitive prices. Coal and coke have become scarce and are rationed; lighting is not, but owing to there having been very little snow in the Alps this winter, electric power is carefully conserved and no waste is allowed. Women's clothing, silks, furs, hats, etc., are unrationed but expensive. There is an abundance of silk and nylon stockings, jewellery, watches and luxury goods which, displayed in the windows of the great shopping centres, take on a fresh beauty at night, when their charms are enhanced by the glow from the many candles which, in order to economise electricity, light the shop-windows as darkness falls."

SWISS MONTHLY RATIONS.

| | APPROX. | | APPROX. |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1½ Kilos. Meat | 3¼lbs. | 200gr. Lard | 7ozs. |
| 500gr. Cereals | 1lb. 2ozs. | 200gr. Oil | 7ozs. |
| 750gr Sugar | 1lb. 10ozs. | 500gr. Oatmeal | 1lb. 2ozs. |
| 250gr. Preserves | 8ozs. | 7Kilos. Bread | 15lbs. 6ozs. |
| 400gr. Flour | 14ozs. | 10Litres Milk | 17½pints. |
| 200gr. Butter | 7ozs. | 250gr. Rice | (issued 8ozs. to children only) |
| 200gr. Cheese | 7ozs. | | |

ARMS OF ZURICH.



Per Bend Argent and Azure.

Though the fifth canton to join the Swiss Confederation, Zurich ranks the first place in order of precedence.

Rudolf of Habsburg, who was subsequently elected Emperor of Austria by appropriating the provinces which he had wrested from Ottocar of Bohemia, appended an oriflamme to the banner of Zurich in consideration of its valuable assistance in the field of battle.

Zurich has always regarded this honour as a sign of precedence over all other cantons.

In the days when there was no common emblem and the seal of each sovereign state was appended to official documents, that of Zurich served to seal official pieces emanating from the whole of the Confederates. By virtue of this distinction and ancient usage, the banner of Zurich was larger than the banners of the other cantons.

Some armorialists see in the bendwise arrangement and tinctures of those arms a symbol of the beautiful Lake of Zurich lying in a SW to NW direction. The fact that the exact origin of the arms of Zurich is not known, except that they are very ancient, makes this explanation quite acceptable.

One or two lions, the personification of Zurich, are often supporters of the shield, holding since the battle of Dättwyl (1351), a palm branch in their paws as a sign of victory.

P.S.

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