

Gifts and bequests

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THE SWISS ARMY AND THE ECONOMIC BOOM

The President of the Confederation, Bundesrat Chaudet, referred to the dangers of the present economic boom when he addressed the assembly at the summer championships of the Swiss Army in his capacity as head of the Military Department. He praised the sporting spirit, the soldierly bearing and the courage of the competitors, and then went on to stress the value of army sport where neither gain nor championship honours counted, but only the improvement of physical abilities and above all the raising of moral resistance. The Councillor said "The soldier must not only have technical knowledge, but also be able to summon forces by which he can conquer tiredness, weakness and any fiendish measures which might be used against him to make him capitulate. The preparation for this build-up is all the more necessary as the economic boom with its gifts of material comforts does not exactly encourage personal fight against slackness and indolence." He stressed that even the best weapons were only of value if the troops were able to combat psychological warfare. He ended by mentioning the present political tension and said that anything could happen from the best to the worst. The only safety lay in our determination to defend ourselves and to do anything in our power to make such a defence real. "It is gratifying", the Federal Councillor concluded his address to the competitors, "to see the fine spirit in which you work voluntarily towards the strengthening of our national defence."

Mariann.
(Based on ATS report.)

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

It is reassuring to read of many handsome gifts and bequests made in Switzerland at a time when one hears of rather sad consequences of all the material well-being in our country. I was very impressed when I heard on the Swiss radio some time ago that an Italian workman had his brief-case stolen containing all his savings. No sooner had this news been heard than money started pouring in at the broadcasting studios. Listeners wanted to compensate the unfortunate fellow, and when his case was found later on, some of the kind donors did not want their money back but had it transferred to another good cause. That sort of generosity is not given any publicity, and in fact all over the country much good is done anonymously. The sums bequeathed on a large scale get reported in the press, and the following are a few examples of recent gifts.

The late Arthur Gehring, well known in commercial circles at Thayngen, bequeathed his fortune to the district hospital of Frutigen (BE).

The late apothecary, Heinrich Altorfer, left Fr.10,000 to the district hospital at Rueti, Zurich Oberland.

A very generous gesture was made by the Cantonal Savings Bank of Aargau (Aargauische Ersparniskasse) on the occasion of their 150th anniversary. It is one of the oldest banking institutions in the country and one of the largest local banks in Switzerland. It was founded in 1812 by "The Society for Patriotic Culture in Aargau" and

became independent in 1912. Fr.100,000 were donated to the Cantonal Hospital for research.

Mrs. Emma Widmer-Frick died on 4th March. She and her husband had kept an inn at Heisch/Hausen am Albis. She left her whole estate, amounting to some Fr.300,000, to the Commune of Hausen for the purpose of providing pay and lodging for a village nurse.

Carl Moser, former curator of the "Heimatmuseum" of Altstaetten (SG), left another Fr. 43,000 to evangelical institutions, the museum, and the commune. With gifts already made during his lifetime, this brings the total to Fr.148,000.

The late Albert Joerg, well-known industrialist at Deisswil (BE), left Fr.200,000 to various homes for the aged, the sick, babies and young people, also to some music societies. The deceased had already supported and promoted these institutions during his lifetime.

In memory of Dr. Paul Silverberg, his daughter, Miss Louise Silverberg, from St. Moritz, has opened a library trust fund, "Biblioteca Engiadinaisa", at Sils-Baselgia. She donated the considerable library left to her by her father to this trust, and the inauguration of this people's library housed in a specially erected building took place early in June.

The Grand Lodge of the Swiss "Odd-Fellow-Bund" decided on two gifts which will benefit a day school for children suffering from cerebroparalysis in Basle and the home for the deaf and dumb at Riehen. Every year two such gifts are made by the lodge.

A donor who wishes to remain anonymous has given Fr.150,000 to the protestant commune of Glarus for the erection of a small church in the Kloental. The donor also accepts responsibility for the upkeep and running cost of the church.

Surprising news was received by the Cantonal Police of Appenzell Ausserrhoden of a legacy amounting to 100,000 dollars. The testator, Walter E. Kruesi, died in New Jersey, USA, and had left this sum to the commune of origin of his forefathers. His father, John Kruesi, was born at Herisau in 1843 and emigrated to America after he had acquired engineering skill in many parts of Europe. He became a collaborator of the famous inventor, Thomas A. Edison, and is supposed to have made the first gramophone as well as numerous electric gadgets. He was chief engineer at the "Edison General Electric Co. and Thomson Houston Co." when he died in Schenectady (NY) in 1899. He left eight children. His son Walter, who has now remembered so handsomely his country of origin, was a major in the American Army during the first world war. It is not yet known whether the legacy will finally be of that amount, as taxes may have to be deducted.

The "Schweizer Auslandhilfe", the Swiss organisation for help abroad, in Berne, received an anonymous gift of Fr.100,000 for the benefit of their "Free the World from Hunger Campaign". The money was paid in at a Berne post office and the sender was given as "Liebiwil" — the place of charity or love.

Mariann.

I shall pass through this world but once. Any good thing, therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

(Stephen Grellet.)
Motto of King George V.