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EDUCATION

Number of days lost to strikes per year (per 1,000 population, 1992) Switzerland 0.2 Japan 2.5 Germany 8.1 France 8.6 Netherlands 14.9 Denmark 18.5 Great Britain 19.1 US 31.7 Sweden 115.2 Spain 244.6 Italy

At least, thanks to all the bureaucrats, Sweden has been able to beat Switzerland in this field. Once again, siesta in Spain seems to be more to the taste there than education. We wonder where New Zealand would fit in here? Somewhere between Italy and Spain perhaps? The position of Germany comes a bit as a surprise. Does this mean that the Germans educate themselves without government assistance???



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STRIKES

Government expenses

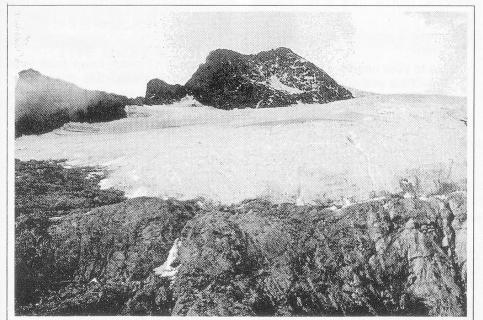
for education

(in US dollars per capita, 1991)

Sweden _	2001
Switzerland	1740
Denmark \Box	1479
France	1208
Netherlands	1185
Japan 🗀	1113
US 🗀	1112
Great Britain 🗀	825
Germany \square	767
Italy 🗀	610
Spain =	409

The picture is crystal clear: the Swiss work, the Italians strike and the rest of Europe is somewhere in between. What about New Zealand? A few years ago, we would have been right at the bottom of the table, well below Italy, with the number of days lost so large that it would not have fitted into the above table. Where does New Zealand fit into this table today? Frankly, we have no idea....





SWISS GLACIERS STILL RECEDING

The year 1994 was no exception, in fact it will go down as one of the years which registered one of the largest glacier retreat. During the 115 years since glaciers have been studied and their movements registered, only 33 years have been counted in total during which the glaciers have either stayed put or have slightly advanced. In fact, over these 115 years, the average yearly length lost by all glaciers was 7 metres.

NOTE TO SECRETARIES

Next issue of the Helvetia magazine: NOVEMBER 1995. All contributions must be in by 15 October. Many thanks for your kind cooperation.