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From the latest official statistics it is learned that in the first quarter of 1944 the nominal hourly average earnings in all industries were 35.9 per cent. higher than they were in August, 1939. As the increase in the cost of living as shown by the official index amounted to 51 per cent. the difference was equalised by the higher wages as far as 70.4 per cent.; the loss of purchasing power compared with the pre-war position is stated to be only 10 per cent.

More than seven years ago an arrangement was arrived at between the Association of Employers and four Trade Unions in the engineering and metal industries, whereby the parties engaged themselves for two years to settle mutually important differences and possible disputes. Shortly before the outbreak of the war this contract was renewed for another five years. Quite recently the delegates of the most important workers' organisations almost unanimously recommended a further extension of the arrangement. In the circles of the employers a similar intention is to be found, so that the labour peace in one of the most important industries of the country appears to be secured for the future.

Humanitarian

A heavy influx of refugees is feared as a result of the turn of events on the battlefields.

Though no official statement has been issued it is reported in most of the English and American papers that our Government has revised the rules or principles guiding entry; on the other side it is affirmed that there is no need for new regulations since asylum cannot be demanded as a right.

In view of the possible introduction of small pox from abroad, the Federal Council has decreed the compulsory vaccination over the whole territory of the Confederation. Up to now eleven cantons had introduced this compulsion in their territory and during the epidemic of 1921 to 1926 when over 5000 persons fell victims to the illness imported from abroad, it was not experienced in these particular cantons. Now, first of all will be vaccinated babies between the age of four to twelve months and children between the ages of twelve and fifteen years. For years already all males as well as females, entering military formations had to submit to vaccination against small pox.

The International Red Cross Committee in Geneva is at present arranging a collection of artificial teeth from discarded plates for the benefit of civil internees and prisoners of war. Up to the present nearly 200,000 artificial teeth were handed over to camp dentists.

The show train of the International Red Cross Committee terminated its trip through Switzerland on August 3rd. It traveled 3400 km. and visited seventy-five localities, collecting an amount of Frs. 173,266. Stops of one to three days were made in convenient sidings.

The train was composed of three British-built dining cars lent by the Swiss management of the International Sleeping Car Company, one of which was fitted as a cinema van. The train was accompanied by a staff of eight officials.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We hope to go to press again on September 29th.

LE PROBLEME DE LA DENATIONALISATION

L'an dernier au mois de mai, quand le Conseil fédéral a autorisé son Département de justice et police à retirer la nationalité helvétique aux Suisses qui ont fui à l'étranger et qui font état de leur droit de cité pour y poursuivre une activité contraire aux intérêts généraux du pays, cette mesure a été acceptée chez nous avec des sentiments mêlés. Des polémiques se sont engagées dans la presse. Les chambres en ont délibéré longuement. Si l'attitude du Conseil fédéral a été finalement approuvée à de fortes majorités, il est malgré tout subsisté un certain malaise à ce sujet.

Maintenant, comme il arrive souvent, il semble, à certaines manifestations, que l'opinion publique a été retournée. On ne reproche plus au gouvernement d'avoir fait usage de ses pleins pouvoirs pour s'arroger la compétence d'annuler un droit de nationalité qui est imprescriptible par définition. On se plaint dans certains milieux qu'il est trop timoré en l'espèce et qu'il n'a pas appliqué cette sanction assez souvent. Tout récemment, le Grand Conseil de Genève protestait officiellement auprès du Conseil fédéral, parce que celui-ci a refusé, jusqu'à plus ample informé en tout cas, de retirer la nationalité helvétique à Georges Oltramare qui, depuis plus de quatre ans à Paris, déploie une activité nettement anti-suisse. A la suite de ces polémiques, le Département fédéral de justice et police s'est expliqué longuement devant les commissions parlementaires des pleins pouvoirs. La presse a été renseignée amplement, de telle sorte que l'on peut se faire désormais une idée plus complète et plus précise de la jurisprudence en la matière.

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